

# NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2 June 2008

### **Complaints and findings/guidance from the Standards Board**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members on the development of the ethical agenda and any complaints received about County Councillors.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members of the Standards Committee previously agreed it would be helpful to have a standing item on each agenda setting out developments in relation to the ethical framework and any complaints received or pending against Members of the County Council. This is to ensure that Members are up to date with developments and aware of the type of issues that are being raised.

#### **3.0 DEVELOPMENTS**

##### **Local Ethical Framework**

- 3.1 Most parts of the new local ethical framework are now in place and the new supporting legislation has come into force. The new regime is effective from 8 May 2008. This is the subject of a separate report to the Committee's meeting.

#### **4.0 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED**

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer periodically receives notification from the Standards Board of complaints that have been referred to them in relation to the Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 During the period since the last meeting of the Committee, the Monitoring Officer has received notification from the Standards Board of two new complaints made against County Councillors.
- 4.3 The first complaint relates to a complaint against a County Councillor already raised with the Standards Board, where the Board considered that the information provided by the complainant was insufficient to enable it to make a decision as to whether or not the complaint should be referred for investigation. The alleged misconduct related to a particular statutory process that the Council was undertaking. The complainant subsequently submitted further information which was re-considered by the Board. The Board has decided not to refer the complaint for investigation as no breach of the Code was disclosed.
- 4.4 The second complaint relates to an alleged failure to declare a personal interest at a County Council area committee meeting. The Standards Board decided that the matter should not be referred for investigation as no potential breach of the Code was disclosed.

#### **5.0 OTHER COMPLAINT MATTERS**

- 5.1 There are no other complaints issues to bring to Members' attention.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

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Background Documents:

None

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

21 May 2008