



Notice published pursuant to The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 (regulation 20). Summary of decision by the Standards Committee Hearings and Assessment Sub Committee at a meeting held on Monday 28 September 2009.

- 1 On 18 March 2009 the Council received a complaint concerning the alleged conduct of former Councillor Mr. Perry Lewis. The Standards Referrals Sub Committee considered the complaint on 15 April and decided to refer the complaint for investigation.
- 2 The Standards Committee Hearings and Assessment Sub Committee met on 28 September 2009. The hearing was held pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000, the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and the Standards Board for England Guidance.
- 3 The Standards Committee Hearings and Assessment Sub Committee considered an investigation report prepared and presented to the Sub Committee by an Independent Investigator, commissioned by the Council's Monitoring Officer.
- 4 A complaint had been made anonymously regarding an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by former Councillor Mr. Lewis. The relevant sections of the Code of Conduct under consideration were
 - a) You must treat others with respect
 - b) You must not bully any person.
- 5 The anonymous complaint alleged bullying behaviour by Mr. Lewis relating to the Councils' Icelandic Bank situation.
- 6 The Independent Investigator concluded there were no incidents of disrespect. He concluded there were two incidents of bullying. Firstly with regard to a telephone call. Secondly relating to a Finance Scrutiny review.
- 7 The Standards Committee Hearings and Assessment Sub Committee agreed fully with the Independent Investigator's findings of fact and conclusions and formally decided:-
 - a) There was no breach of the Code of Conduct with regard to (a) You must treat others with respect.
 - b) There was a breach of the Code of Conduct with regard to (b) You must not bully any person
- 8 The Standards Committee Hearings and Assessment Sub Committee decided to apply a sanction of Censure. (this is the only sanction available with regard to an ex Councillor).

- 9 The Sub Committee expressed regret that Mr Lewis did not attend the hearing and that it had not been possible to contact him regarding the hearing.
- 10 Mr Lewis has a right of appeal against the decision to the Adjudication Panel for England.