

Subject: CASE APE 0336

Status: FOR PUBLICATION

Report to: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: 22nd AUGUST 2006

Report of: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Portfolio

Holder: DUNCAN RUDDICK

Key Decision:

NO/YES (Please highlight)

Forward Plan
Relevant Box

General Exception

Special Urgency

"X" In

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of a recent full decision of the Adjudication Panel for England.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- Member development (Community Network). There is a learning opportunity for Members arising from this report.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- There are risks associated with failures to comply with the Code of Conduct it is important to uphold high standards of ethical governance standards. The findings of the Adjudication Panel highlights the risks to the Council if Members do not fully understand ethical governance issues.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The report provides information on a referral from the Ethical Standards Officer to the Adjudication Panel in relation to an allegation that Councillor Pickup had failed to comply with Paragraph 4 of the Whitworth Town Council's Code of Conduct.

4.2 Details of the full decision/reasoning are attached and will be discussed at Committee.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 The decision highlights the real risks surrounding Ethical Governance. It is essential that this is embedded within the Organisation.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 Ethical Governance is a key area for improvement within the Council. The Standards Committee's role and responsibility is to uphold the Standards of Ethical Governance and communicate them to all Members. Receiving reports such as this will ensure there is shared learning across the Organisation in relation to Ethical Governance issues.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 Sharing the learning in relation to issues covered in this report is essential. Organisational development should be organised around these issues.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That the report is noted.

8.2 That a summary of the decision is circulated to all Members.

8.3 That Members agree that a training session on the Code of Conduct is organised by Head of Legal and Democratic Services for all Members and Members of Whitworth Town Council.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- Chair of Standards Committee.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Report APE0336 – available for publication	Legal Services