

**STANDARDS BOARD PANEL – HEARING**  
**Summary of Decision**

Notice is hereby given that on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 the Standards Board Panel considered allegations that Councillor Ronald Alan Neal, breached the Rossendale Borough Council Code of Conduct (the Code).

The Panel determined that Councillor Neal had breached Paragraphs 2(1)(a), 3(1) and 5 of the Code in that Councillor Neal did send inappropriate email content in the course of Council business which detailed an unsupported allegation that officers accepted financial incentives from third parties. This failed to treat others with respect and brought the Council into disrepute.

The Panel decided that it was appropriate to mark the breaches of the Code by imposing penalties. The Panel took into account all the written and oral evidence submitted at the Hearing and imposed the following sanctions:

That Councillor Neal be suspended as a Borough and Town Councillor with immediate effect until 12 noon on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and upon resuming duties he be required to undertake training.

Councillor Neal may seek permission from the President of the Adjudication Panel to appeal within 21 days of his receipt of notification of the findings of the local determination.

Dated: Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009

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