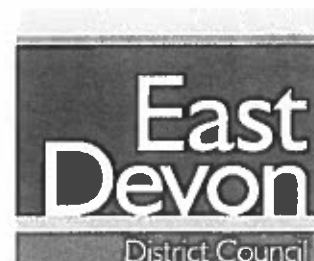


Date: 8 June 2012
Contact number: 01395 517541
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To: Members of the Standards Committee:
(Cllr Peter Bowden, Mr Ted Butt, Cllr Geoff Chamberlain,
Mr Ray Davison, Cllr Peter Halse, Cllr David Mason,
Cllr Simon Pollentine, Cllr Courtney Richards, Ms Alison Willan,
Cllr Tim Wood,)

Substitute Members: (Cllrs: Derek Button, Douglas Hull
Frances Newth, Claire Wright) – For information

Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer
Corporate Legal and Democratic Services Manager

**Standards Committee
Tuesday 19 June 2012
10.00 am
Committee Room**

Members of the Council who do not sit on this Committee are welcome to attend as observers.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.

- A period of 15 minutes has been provided at the beginning of the meeting to allow members of the public to raise questions.
- In addition, the public may speak on items listed on the agenda. After a report has been introduced, the Chairman of the Committee will ask if any member of the public would like to speak in respect of the matter and/or ask questions.
- All individual contributions will be limited to a period of 3 minutes – where there is an interest group of objectors or supporters, a spokesperson should be appointed to speak on behalf of the group.
- The public is advised that the Chairman has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time.

Councillors and members of the public are reminded to switch off mobile phones during the meeting. If this is not practical due to particular circumstances, please advise the Chairman in advance of the meeting.

AGENDA

Part A

Page/s

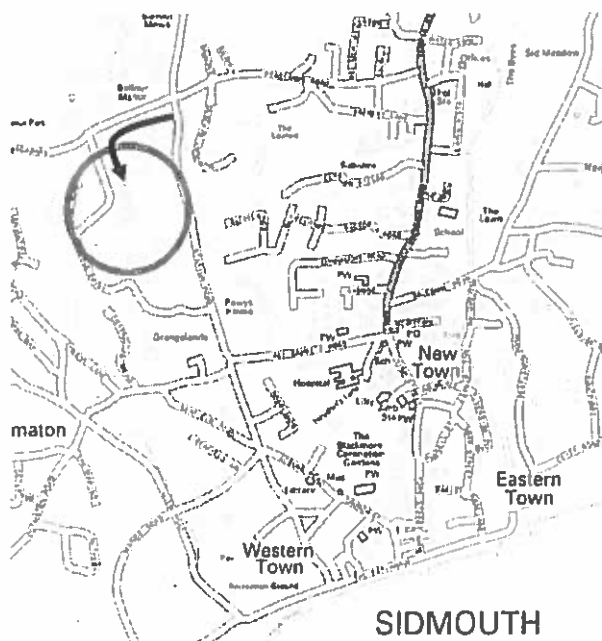
- 1 Election of Chairman.
- 2 **Public question time** – standard agenda item (15 minutes)
Members of the public are invited to put questions to the Committee through the Chairman.
- 3 To receive any apologies for absence.

4	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2012.		4 - 6
5	To receive any declarations of interests relating to items on the agenda.		
6	To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are no items which Officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.		
7	To consider any items which in the opinion of the Chairman, should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances. (Note: Such circumstances need to be identified in the minutes. If you wish to raise a matter under this item, please do so in advance of the meeting by notifying the Chief Executive who will then consult with the Chairman).		
8	New local Standards arrangements update. Draft Code of Conduct and complaints process, including draft advert for independent person to assist the Standards Committee.	Monitoring Officer	7 - 19
9	Letters sent by the Monitoring Officer to MPs Neil Parish and Hugo Swire to reflect concern of Councillors and Independent members in respect of proposed changes and letter received in response from MP Hugo Swire – for information.	Monitoring Officer	20 - 23
10	Member training and development update, including Refresher Programme Jan – May 2012	Democratic Services Manager	24 - 26
11	Complaints update and statistics	Monitoring Officer	27 - 31
12	Forward Plan	Monitoring Officer	32

Members remember!

- You must declare any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.
- Make sure you say the reason for your interest as this has to be included in the minutes.
- If your interest is prejudicial you must leave the room unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Council's Standards Committee or where Para 12(2) of the Code can be applied. Para 12(2) allows a Member with a prejudicial interest to stay for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business but only at meetings where the public are also allowed to make representations. If you do remain, you must not exercise decision-making functions or seek to improperly influence the decision; you must leave the meeting room once you have made your representation.
- You also need to declare when you are subject to the party whip before the matter is discussed.

Getting to the Meeting – for the benefit of visitors



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The following buses all terminate at the Triangle in Sidmouth. From the Triangle, walk up Station Road until you reach the Council Offices (approximately ½ mile).

From Exeter – 52A, 52B

From Honiton – 52B

From Seaton – 52A

From Ottery St Mary – 379, 387

Please check your local timetable for times.

The Committee Suite has a separate entrance to the main building, located at the end of the visitor and Councillor car park. The rooms are at ground level and easily accessible; there is also a toilet for disabled users.

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 24 January 2012

Present:	Ted Butt	Independent Chairman
	Cllr Peter Bowden	EDDC Councillor
	Cllr Geoff Chamberlain	EDDC Councillor
	Ray Davison	Independent Member
	Cllr Peter Halse	EDDC Councillor
	Cllr David Mason	Parish Council representative
	Cllr Simon Pollentine	Parish Council representative
	Cllr Courtney Richards	Parish Council representative
	Alison Willan	Independent Member
	Cllr Tim Wood	EDDC Councillor
Also present	Derek Button	EDDC Councillor
Officers:	Christopher Holland	Democratic Services Officer
	Denise Lyon	Monitoring Officer
	Rachel Pocock	Corporate Manager Legal and Democratic Services
	Diana Vernon	Democratic Services Manager
Apologies:	Cllr Frances Newth	EDDC Councillor

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.15 am

***10 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 1 November 2011 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***11 Localism Act implementation – Standards and New Code of Conduct**

Members considered the report of the Corporate Manager of Legal and Democratic Services regarding the implications of the Localism Act 2011 on the Standards regime.

Members noted that the Localism Act would alter much of the existing Standards regime, including Standards for England (SFE) and the ability to refer certain councillor Code of Conduct complaint cases to it. SFE was likely to be abolished with effect from 31 March 2012; and for practical purposes SFE was already unwilling to take further referrals.

The report was to outline the final form of the Act, in preparation for a later report which would present specific recommendations/options to Members. The Localism Act required a new local Code and local standards machinery in line with regulations yet to be made and would most likely need to be in place by 1 July 2012.

Members were supportive of efforts to agree a common code of conduct across Devon for all tiers of Council as they felt it would be helpful for Members sitting on several Councils. They were however, concerned at the perceived lack of enforcement or sanction resulting from decisions commenting that the new Committee would be in danger of being a 'talk shop' with no real power.

***11 Localism Act implementation – Standards and New Code of Conduct (cont'd)**

Members expressed their disappointment over new provisions, which would exclude the involvement of Parish Councillor, and independent representatives serving as voting members on the existing Committee, all of which had gained much experience during their tenure. They also expressed concern at the way in which the public would perceive a Standards Committee made up of District Councillors potentially leading to a loss of credibility.

Members welcomed the provision that would allow the Monitoring Officer to deal with complaints initially as this would hopefully reduce the number of politically motivated, tit for tat and/or trivial complaints coming to Committee.

RESOLVED: that the likely implementation date for the start of the new code of conduct framework as 1 July 2012 and the Corporate Legal and Democratic Services Manager's intention to further report to the Standards Committee [assuming regulations are made to a timetable that permits this] prior to full Council approval of a new Code of Conduct and associated arrangements under the Localism Act be noted.

***12 Predetermination provision in Localism Act**

Members considered the recent advice of the Corporate Manager of Legal and Democratic Services which had been sent to all Councillors. It advised Members regarding the issue of predetermination, covered in Section 25, in the Localism Act 2011.

Members noted in particular the summary of the effect of new predetermination provision in the advice:

"Section 25 has the intention of facilitating councillors speaking out on local issues by the introduction of this new presumption – in prescribed circumstances. In those cases, 'just because' a view has been given, this is not to be automatically construed as a 'closed mind'. Legal presumptions are rebuttable, which means that if the facts of the particular case show the member or members did have a closed mind at the point of decision-making this could still result in a judgement of unlawfulness and expose the council concerned to the risk its decision will be quashed by the court.

Council decisions will still need to take into account all relevant considerations, not be irrational nor taken for an improper purpose. In addition human rights and proper consultation procedures (where applicable) need to be followed."

RESOLVED that the recent advice concerning Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 be noted.

***13 Complaints update and statistics**

Members considered the report of the Monitoring Officer, which detailed the level and type of complaints received by the Monitoring Officer for the Standards Committee from March to October 2011. It was noted that the level of complaints had been increasing steadily to 2010 for the same period in the previous year. It was hoped that the increase was a temporary 'blip'.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***14 Forward Plan**

Members considered the Forward Plan for the Committee setting out future meetings and likely items for consideration.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

Chairman Date.....

Agenda Item 8

Standards Committee

19 June 2012

DL/RP



Draft Code of Conduct and complaints process

Summary

Monitoring Officers and their Deputies have agreed a draft Code of Conduct for recommending to all the Councils in Devon, including the Unitaries, Towns and Parishes. The latest version of the draft Code is attached at Appendix A for members to consider. In addition, the report includes a proposed complaints handling process involving the newly designated role of the 'Independent Person'.

Recommendations

It be recommended to Council that:

1. The Council's new Code of Conduct be in the form set out in Appendix A (with the Corporate Legal and Democratic Services Manager being given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to make any necessary further amendments prior to final consideration by Council) and will:
 - a) incorporate provisions in respect of the registration and disclosure of pecuniary interests (as defined by regulations).
 - b) require registration and disclosure of personal interests.
2. The Council's Constitution be amended to include provisions for a Member to be excluded from meetings when a matter is being considered in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest unless the Member has been granted a dispensation; the Corporate Legal and Democratic Services Officer be given delegated authority to effect the Constitutional changes and other consequential amendments arising out of the Localism Act and Code of Conduct changes.
3. That granting a dispensation on the following grounds be delegated to the Monitoring Officer:
 - a) that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;
 - b) that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote;
4. That the making of dispensations on the following grounds be delegated to the Standards Committee:
 - a) that the authority considers that a dispensation is in the interests of the persons living in the Council's area; and
 - b) that the Committee considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.
5. The proposed composition of the Standards Committee be as set out at paragraph 3 of the report
6. that the arrangements for dealing with complaints be as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.
7.
 - a) that the Council appoints one Independent Person and one reserve Independent Person;
 - b) that the Monitoring Officer determines the process for the selection of the Independent Person(s) for endorsement of the Independent Person(s) by full Council.
8.
 - (a) that the Monitoring Officer prepares and maintains a new register of Members' interests to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act and the new Code of Conduct and ensures that all Members are informed of their duty to register interests;
 - (b) the Monitoring Officer advises parish clerks on the new registration Arrangements.

+ £25 → g.i.s & hospital.

a) Reasons for Recommendations

To prepare for changes to the standards regime in the Localism Act 2011.

b) Alternative Options

The Council does have some discretion as to what to include in the Code of Conduct as discussed in the papers to the Standards Committee in January this year. However, the aim has been to agree a Code that can be adopted Devon-wide, and the attached version is the result of collaboration between the councils.

c) Risk Considerations

The aim has been to draw up a Code of Conduct and a complaints process that are effective, fair and transparent. The Code needs to be robust and clear enough for members and the public to understand what is expected of an elected councillor. The complaints process needs to be straightforward and fair.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

This report is responding to legislative change and the Deputy Monitoring Officer will be updating the Constitution to reflect this.

e) Date for Review of Decision

There will be a further report once the detailed regulations allow Councils to finalise their approach.

1. The Code of Conduct

1.1 At its January 2012 meeting, Standards Committee members considered a report which outlined the requirements of the Localism Act in relation to new standards arrangements for local authorities.

1.2 The government outlined its intention to introduce the new arrangements by 1 April 2012, but subsequently delayed the start date to 1 July 2012. Draft regulations containing the detail of the definition of 'disclosable pecuniary interests' were laid before Parliament on 8th June and will come into force on 1 July 2012.

1.3 While the Act requires Members to declare 'disclosable pecuniary interests' a Council may also stipulate in its Code that Members should declare 'interests other than pecuniary interests'. Officers across Devon have therefore taken the status quo in the current Code as the starting point for other interests since it has the benefit of familiarity for members.

1.4 Despite the delay in both draft and final regulations, the Devon Monitoring Officers and their Deputies have been working together to produce a draft Code of Conduct for the various councils to consider. There is widespread agreement that one Code for all councils, whether they be County, District, Town, Parish or Unitary, would be helpful for members, especially for dual and triple hatters. The draft, attached at Appendix A, is intended to capture the requirements of the Act outlined in the January report, and the content of the regulations.

2. Dispensations

2.1 The January 2012 report explained the circumstances under which dispensations [which enable a member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to participate], may be granted. The new regime enables these decisions to be delegated to the Monitoring Officer or referred to committee for decision. It is recommended that the decision whether or not to grant a dispensation be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in the following circumstances:

- a) That so many members of the decision-making body have DPIs in a matter that it would "impede the transaction of the business".
- b) That, without the dispensation, the representation of different political groups on the body transacting the business would be so upset as to alter the outcome of any vote on the matter.

And that dispensations in the following three circumstances be dealt with by the Standards Committee (or sub-committee) as they are more subjective:

- c) That the authority considers that the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area;
- d) That, without a dispensation, no member of the Cabinet would be able to participate on this matter
or
- e) That the authority considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

3. The membership of the Standards Committee

3.1 In terms of the membership, the Committee must be politically balanced unless Council as a whole votes unanimously that the political balance rules should not apply. Members are aware that if the Council decides to co-opt independent and parish members to its Committee, the co-optees cannot have voting rights. Officer recommendation is for the Committee make up to be:

- Chairman of the Council as chairman of the committee ex officio
- Four district councillors
- Two non-voting co-opted independent members
- Two non-voting co-opted parish council members

It is recommended there continue to be a Standards hearings sub committee, with three councillors and a co-opted independent and a co-opted parish council member. Under the Localism Act, the co-opted members will not be able to vote.

4. The Independent Person

4.1 On behalf of the Committee, the Monitoring Officer wrote a letter to the MPs expressing the members' disappointment and concerns about the new regime proposals. One of the issues was the government proposal to exclude the current independent members from holding the position of Independent Person. I have drafted an advert shown in Appendix B to allow us to recruit to this position in preparation for when the changeover takes place. Transitional arrangements made on 6 June 2012 enable the Council to appoint an Independent Person from amongst its existing independent members provided that person is **not** still on the Standards Committee as at 1 July 2012. The advert will also be addressed to eligible independent members. It is recommended

that the process for appointing the Independent Person be delegated to the Monitoring Officer and their appointment then endorsed by Council.

5. Arrangements for handling complaints

The January report covered the principle of the Council delegating to the Monitoring Officer the responsibility for handling and deciding complaints, in consultation with the Independent Person. The Council must make arrangements for dealing with complaints and then deal with them in accordance with those arrangements. The proposal is that:

- The Monitoring or Deputy Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, does a preliminary assessment and collects any information necessary to help facilitate conciliation and local settlement, where appropriate.
- If after the initial assessment the Monitoring or Deputy Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, decides that the complaint merits investigation, taking into consideration the current criteria, she will appoint an appropriate officer or independent investigator to formally investigate. *A where no breach remains with no P.*
- The investigation report will be considered by a Sub Committee of the Standards Committee for hearing and determination, based on written representations, with neither the complainant nor the councillor having the right of attendance. ** where breach so to public hearing with supplies P-0003*

There is much work still to be done, which is being hampered by the late delivery of regulations and timetable. The Deputy Monitoring Officer is working on terms of reference for the new Standards Committee and new processes and an update will be given at Committee.

Legal Implications

Included in the report.

Financial Implications

The Accountancy Section will detail any financial implications here. If there are none, this should also be stated by the Accountancy Section.

Consultation on Reports to the Cabinet

Devon-wide officer discussions have resulted in the proposed draft Code of Conduct.

Background Papers

- 24 January 2012 Standards Committee agenda item 7
- Appendix A – draft Code of Conduct for debate and Appendix B – advert for information

Denise Lyon
Monitoring Officer

Rachel Pocock
Deputy Monitoring Officer

Standards Committee
19 June 2012
19 June 2012

Refresher Programme 2012 (January – May)

At the December meeting of the Member Development Working Party, Members discussed the Councillor feedback from the Welcome and Refresher Programme (June – August 2011). This was over-all very positive and attendance had been good. Members of the Working Party felt that a further refresher programme would particularly help the May 2011 elected Councillors who now had more experience and understanding of Council business and could put the training into context. Members discussed which of the sessions could be repeated or similar ones run. They felt that the Member-led sessions had been well received and a repeat of this approach would be helpful. The programme was devised based on the suggestions of the Member Development Working Party.

Aims of the Refresher Programme: To provide Councillors with an opportunity to revisit issues covered in the Welcome Programme and use their wider understanding of Council business to better apply the information to their Councillor roles.

It is Council policy that everyone who comes into contact with East Devon District Council is treated equally and with respect. The refresher programme will include examples of good practice, equal access to services and equal treatment of all our customers.

Date and time	Session	No of attendees
Wednesday 15 February 5pm 6pm 7pm	Planning Open Evening for all Councillors. The aim of the evening is for all Councillors to meet their respective planning team and to be shown through the complete planning process including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Registration of planning applications via the Planning Portal ➤ First Assessment and validation by Officers of application, ➤ Consultations – how these are dealt with ➤ Decision making either by delegation or committee ➤ Sign off ➤ Enforcement 	42
Wednesday 22 February 5.45 pm	Chief Executive, Mark Williams to explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Committee structure and reporting lines for Committee decisions ➤ Recommendations and resolutions ➤ Starred and unstarred minutes ➤ How to call a minute at Council meetings ➤ Motions in writing (with notice) ➤ Motions without notice This will be followed by a scripted session, Chaired by Andrew Moulding to illustrate meeting procedures and rules of debate.	36

Date and time	Session	No of attendees
Wednesday 29 February 6 – 8.30 pm	Housing Seminar Exploring the role of housing and how the Council is working to deliver its key priority (sustainable communities). This session to include the Council's role in homelessness prevention, provision of housing advice, Devon Home Choice, Home Safeguard, Affordable housing delivery, the Council's landlord role (including estate management, repairs, improvement, adaptations, allocations, rent management and supported housing), and details of the housing budget/Housing Revenue Account. The session will be led by the Portfolio Holder – Sustainable Homes and Communities and Head of Housing. The invitation to this session will be extended to non-Councillor members of the HRB & Tenant Scrutiny Panel.	15
Tuesday 13 March 1.30–4.30 pm	Exmouth visit to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Morgan Court Sheltered Housing Scheme ➤ Estuary-side Transformation ➤ The Strand Enhancement ➤ Elizabeth Hall/Esplanade - and Pavilion for a cuppa 	14
Wednesday 14 March 1.30–4.30 pm Thursday 15 March 5.30–8.30 pm	Plain English Workshops Practical workshops on the principles of Plain English and how to put the theory into practice. The invitation to the sessions has been extended to Councillors and Senior Management Team.(Workshops will be introduced by the Member Champion – Plain English and facilitated by Julia Wright – Training Consultant).	22
Tuesday 20 March 6 – 8.30 pm	Part 1 - Code of Conduct – Governance issues A useful re-cap of issues around good governance as well as a briefing on proposed changes to the Code of Conduct Part 2 - Licensing over-view and role of Ward Member The Licensing and Enforcement Committee has now had the benefit of a lot of good training and they understand their role on the Committee. However, Ward Members have less of an understanding and don't always know what they can do in respect of a licensing related issue in their own ward. This session is specifically for the guidance of Ward Members.	15

Date and time	Session	No of attendees
Tuesday 17 April 6 – 8 pm	Building Control Service. This session followed the lines of the Planning – meet the team evening and covered day to day service delivery, dangerous structures, control of demolition, support to Land Charges and local solicitors and technical expertise.	16
Tuesday 1 May 1.30 pm pick up from Knowle offices	Tour of Growth Point Area Briefing at Flybe Training Academy, tour of Cranbrook including visiting new show homes and tour of Science Park. Use of coach to enable Projects Manager, Deputy Chief Executive and Exeter Science Park Company representative to address delegates during the tours.	46

Note:

In addition opportunities have been followed up in respect of appropriate conferences and seminars – including on Localism – and targeted training opportunities through the Devon-wide shared learning initiative. The latter have included two sessions on speed reading and a series of workshops – Leading myself through difficult times.

Training in the pipeline includes an audit and governance contract letting workshop in June.

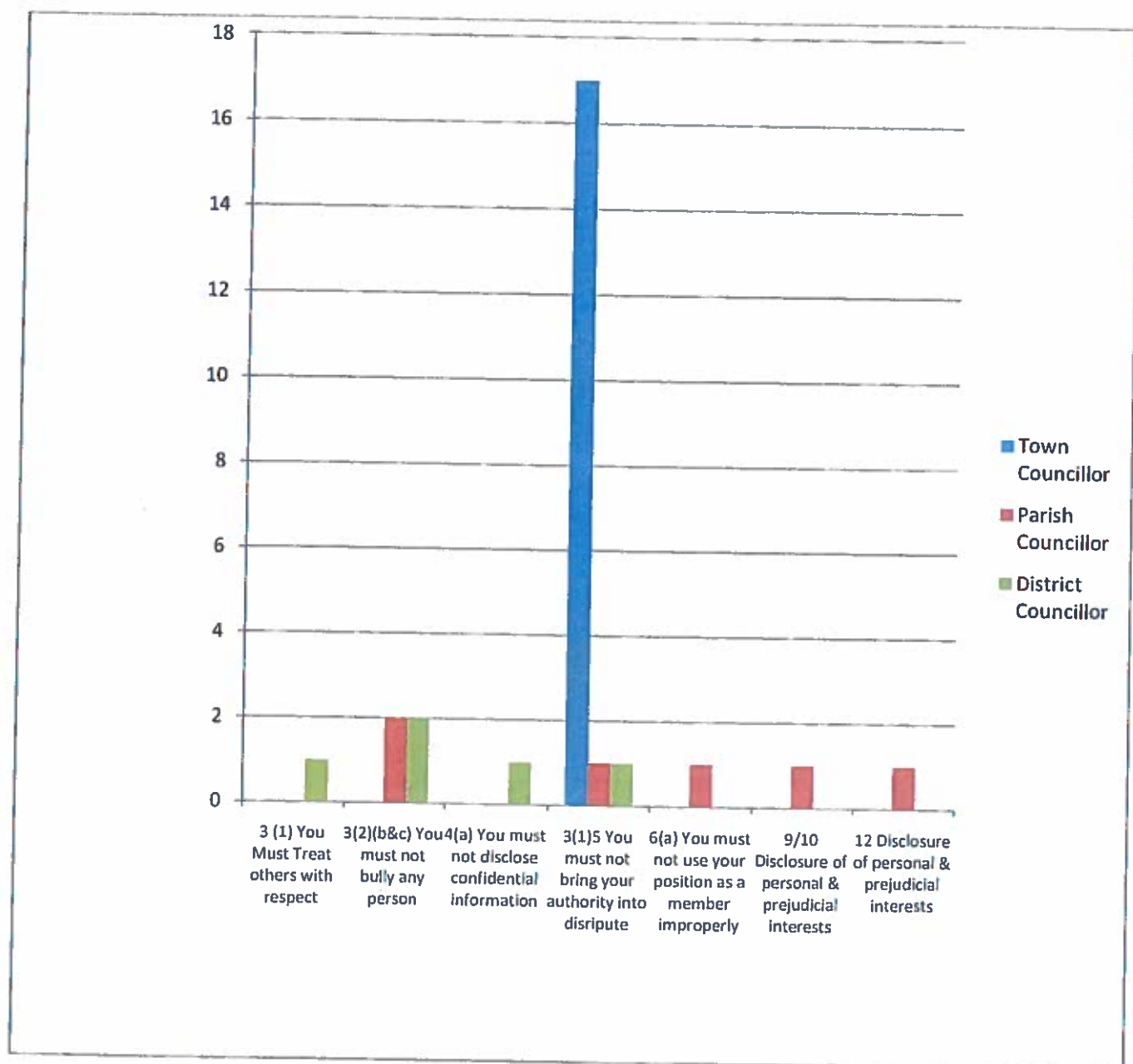
Standards Sub Committee meeting and complaint case outcomes
January 2012 to date

Meeting date	Case #	TC/PC or EDDC member	Outcome
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 21/02/12	LSB56	Town Cllr	No further action Paras: 3(1), 5
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 21/02/12	LSB57	Town Cllr	No further action Paras: 3(1), 5
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 21/02/12	LSB58	Town Cllr	No further action Paras: 3(1), 5 Complainant requested a review 15/03/12 Standards Review Sub Committee met on 25/04/12 and re-convened on 22/05/12 Referred for investigation Paras: 3(1), 5
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 21/02/12	LSB59	Town Cllr	No further action Paras: 3(1), 5 Complainant requested a review 15/03/12 Standards Review Sub Committee met on 25/04/12 Other Action - MO to suggest ways that might help subject member's chairing skills for example through specific training, observation of well chaired meetings (such as East Devon District Council's Development Management Committee) or being mentored by a chairman/senior councillor experienced in dealing with confrontational and vexatious meetings.
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 21/02/12	LSB60 - 85	Town Cllrs	No further action

Meeting date	Case #	TC/PC or EDDC member	Outcome
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 21/02/12	LSB86 - 97 & LSB 123 - 124	Town Cllr	Referred for investigation Paras: 3(1), 5
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 21/02/12	LSB98 - 122	Town Cllrs	No further action
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 20/03/12	LSB44	EDDC Cllr	Case had been referred for investigation. Potential breach – Paras: 5, 6(a), 9/10, 12. Agreed with investigation findings – no breach.
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 17/04/12	LSB53	EDDC Cllr	Referred for investigation Paras: 3(1), 3(2)(b), 3(2)(c), 4(a), 5
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 22/05/12	LSB125	Parish Cllr	Referred for investigation Para: 3(2)(b), 3(2)(c), 5, 6, 9/10, 12
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 25/05/12	LSB46 - 48 & 50	EDDC Cllr	Case had been referred for investigation. Potential breach – Paras: 3(1), 5, 6 Hearing held on 25/05/12 to consider investigation findings. Sub Committee findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breach of Para 3(1), 5 Sanctions imposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Censure ➤ A formal letter of apology to the Council as a whole in which Councillor Allen is to accept responsibility for his behaviour and specifically acknowledging and apologising for his unacceptable treatment of Councillor Giles and Councillor Wright and his failings as a Chairman, to be in a form

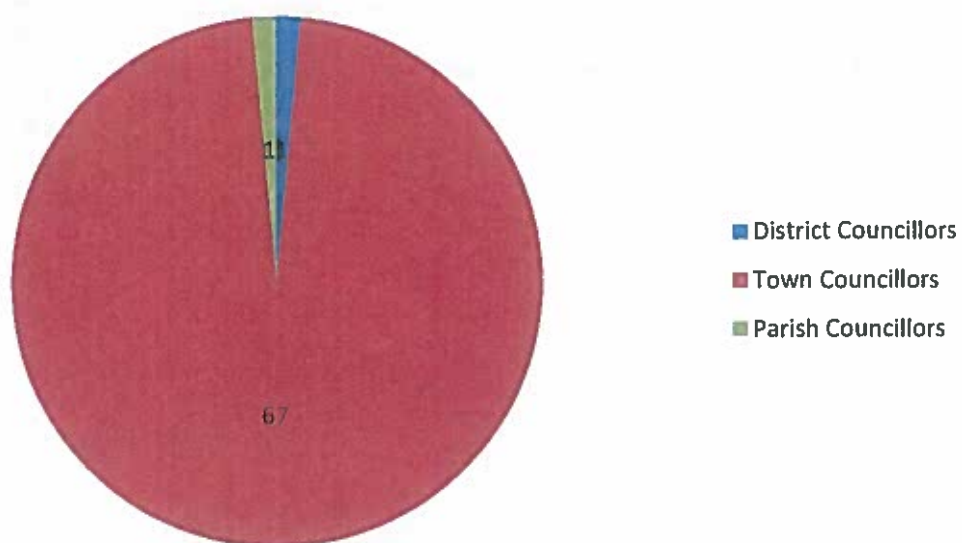
			<p>specified by the Sub Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Relevant training – to include media awareness and observation of examples of well-chaired meetings. The Sub Committee recommended that Councillor Allen is not appointed to a position of responsibility until the Council was satisfied that he had undertaken this training/development.
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee 25/05/12	LSB49	Town Cllr	<p>Case had been referred for investigation. Potential breach – Paras: 3(1), 5 Hearing held on 25/05/12 to consider investigation findings. Sub Committee findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breach of Paras 3(1), 5 ➤ Budleigh Salterton Town Council to be informed that the Sub-Committee felt that the town council had good procedures in place and particularly referred to the standard paragraph contained in the planning committee minutes setting out the declaration by District Councillors in respect of their role and reserved rights (reserving their position, and keeping an open mind about a planning application or similar issue until they are in full possession of all of the relevant facts and arguments for and against). ➤ When the new Code of Conduct (under the Localism Act) had been agreed, for EDDC to ensure that training of district and local councillors includes clarification in respect of the role of district councillors on parish and town planning committees.

Types of allegations received by the Standards Committee January 2012 to date

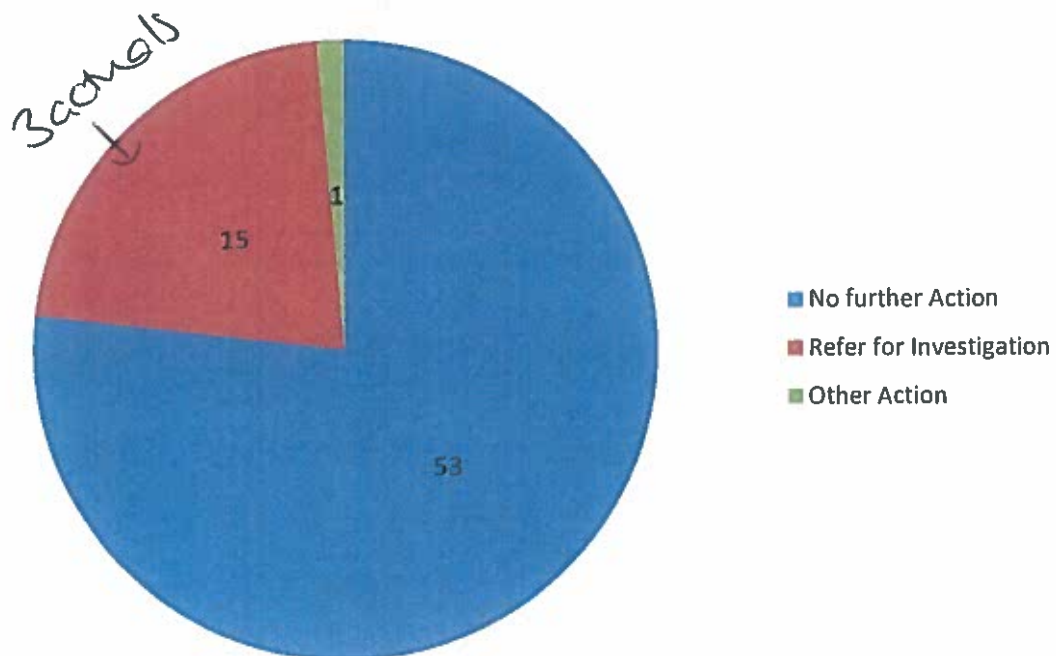


Number of complaints with no type of potential allegation identified = 50 Town Councillors

Number of complaints made against District, town or Parish Councillors since January 2012



Outcome of Initial Assessment in these same cases



Agenda Item 12

Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

19 June 2012



Standards Committee

Forward Plan 2012/13

30 October 2012	New or amended legislation update Member training and development update Complaints update Forward Plan
22 January 2013	New or amended legislation update Member training and development update Complaints update Forward Plan
9 April 2012	New or amended legislation update Member training and development update Complaints update Forward Plan

These are the main items, but there may be other matters arising through the year that members want to include too.