



## **DECISION NOTICE: REFERRAL FOR INVESTIGATION & OTHER ACTION**

### **Reference LSF.09.2010 Complaint**

On 3 September 2010, the Assessment Sub-Committee of the Council's Standards Committee considered a letter from the Chief Executive concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Prabhijet Dhillon (known as Bob Dhillon), a member of Warwick District Council.

We have set out a general summary of the complaint below:

Councillor Dhillon has made comments, including at committee meetings open to the public and in emails to non-Councillors, which appear to have been bullying and showing lack of respect to officers.

### **Decision**

In accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Assessment Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee decided to refer the allegation to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

The Assessment Sub-Committee also asked the Monitoring Officer to review the relevant Council policies with regard to use of emails by Councillors and review guidance provided to members about their responsibilities when they are members of other organisations and bring reports on both of these matters to the Standards Committee for consideration and approval prior to the District Council elections in May 2011.

### **Potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified**

We have identified the following paragraphs of the Warwick District Council Code of Conduct which may apply to the alleged conduct:

- “3. (1) You must treat others with respect.
- (2) You must not
- (b) bully any person;
  - (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority; and
5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.”

However the investigator will determine which paragraphs are relevant during the course of the investigation.

This Decision Notice is being sent to the person or persons making the allegation and the member against whom the allegation was made.

### **What happens now?**

Investigation – Information regarding the investigation process can be found on the Standards for England website at [www.standardsforengland.gov.uk](http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk)

### **Terms of reference**

The terms of reference under which the decision is made is as follows:

“The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amends the Local Government Act 2000, which now provides for the local assessment of new complaints that members of relevant authorities may have breached the Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 relate to the conduct of authority members and the requirements for dealing with this.

The regulations set out the framework for the operation of a locally based system for the assessment, referral and investigation of complaints of misconduct by members of authorities. They amend and re-enact existing provisions in both the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, as amended, and the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003, as amended.”

### **Additional Help**

If you need additional support in relation to this or future contact with us, please let us know as soon as possible. If you have difficulty reading this notice we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you, in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2000.

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**Signed**

**Date**

**Chair of the Assessment Sub-Committee**