

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT BY MONITORING OFFICER

COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANDREWS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: NONE

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To consider a deferred complaint in respect of District Councillor D Andrews.
- 1.0 Background
- 1.1 Council received eight complaints alleging that District Councillor D Andrews has breached the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 10 September 2015, determined that no action be taken in respect of seven of the eight complaints. It deferred consideration of the remaining complaint to allow the Monitoring Officer to obtain any information on any connection between Councillor Andrews and Riversmead Housing Association.
- 2.0 Report
- 2.1 Council has agreed a procedure for considering complaints.
- 2.2 The Sub-Committee will consider the complaint and decide what action to take.
- 2.3 In appropriate cases, the Monitoring Officer may seek to resolve the complaint informally, without the need for a formal investigation. Members are reminded that having consulted the Independent Person, it was not considered that the complaint could be resolved informally.
- 2.4 Complaints are considered in accordance with the Standards Complaints assessment criteria set out in Appendix 2 of the Complaints Procedure (**Essential Reference Paper 'B'**)

3.0 The Complaint

- 3.1 The outstanding complaint is set out in the complaints form and accompanying documents that form **Essential Reference Paper 'C'**.
- 3.2 Essential Reference Paper 'D' contains further information provided by the complainant in support of their assertion of a relationship between the Member and the Housing Association.
- 3.3 The Regional Director of Riversmead Housing Association (Paul Huckstep) has advised that to the best of his knowledge "...the only connection that Riversmead has with Councillor Andrews is that of District/County Councillor in areas where we own/manage and develop homes." He further advised that he is aware of press coverage suggesting a link between Councillor Andrews and Jackie Trundell, through their joint involvement with the CVBEH. The Regional Director confirms that, in this respect, Mrs Trundell has never met Councillor Andrews.

4.0 Procedure

- 4.1 A copy of the Council's complaints procedure is contained in **Essential Reference Paper 'B' – see Agenda Item 8.**

5.0 Implications/Consultations

- 5.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

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