



ASSESSMENT DECISION NOTICE

NO FINDING OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL AND NO FURTHER ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN

Reference: 2016-7

Complainant: Councillor Stephen Stoddart

Subject Member: Councillor Carole Armstrong

Person(s) conducting the Assessment: Sharon Sewell, Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer, Paul Burns, Independent Person and Councillor Janice Wood, Chair of Standards Committee

Date of Assessment: 10 October 2016

Complaint

On 10 October 2016 Sharon Sewell, Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer, Paul Burns, Independent Person and Councillor Janice Wood, Chair of Allerdale Borough Council's Standards Committee considered a complaint from Councillor Stephen Stoddart concerning the alleged conduct of the Councillor named above, Member of Workington Town Council. A general summary of the complaint is set out below:

The Complainant has alleged that whilst in attendance at a Workington Town Council event Councillor Armstrong's conduct was in breach of the code of conduct.

On receipt of the complaint the Monitoring Officer met with the Independent Person and Chair of the Standards Committee to consider the complaint.

Decision

The finding at assessment is that there is no finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct for Workington Town Council and no further action needs to be taken in respect of individual councillors.



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Reasons for the Decision

In assessing this complaint the Monitoring Officer had regard to;

- the complaint as submitted by the complainant;
- Workington Town Council's Code of Conduct

The Monitoring Officer considered that the allegations were in respect of a potential criminal offence and therefore the matter would need to be reported and if necessary investigated by the police. The alleged witnesses had not reported anything to the Monitoring Officer or the police. The Complainant has confirmed that he was not present during the alleged incident and that those who were allegedly in attendance do not intend to report or discuss this incident further.

The Panel considered the complaint. In reaching this decision the Monitoring Officer had full regard to the views of the Independent Person.

What happens now?

This decision notice is sent to the Complainant and the member(s) against whom the allegation was made.

Terms of reference

In line with the legislative requirements of the Localism Act 2011 the constitution of Allerdale Borough Council charges the Standards Committee of Allerdale Borough Council with promoting and implementing the local assessment process for Code of Conduct complaints against members of Allerdale Borough Council as well as members of the Parish and Town Councils within the Council's area.

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.

We can also help if English is not your first language.

Sharon Sewell
Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Date: 8 November 2016