

**Meeting:** STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010

**Title of Report:** CASE SUMMARIES – RECENT INVESTIGATIONS

**Report of:**

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**Contact Officer:**

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This report contains	Yes	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> Information/		√
<b>EXEMPT</b> information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report <b>DELEGATED?</b>		

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

To update Members on the outcome of two recent investigations by Standards for England.

**2.0 Recommendation(s)**

That Members note the case summaries and determine whether there is benefit in circulating the summaries to other Council Members.

**Corporate Objective Monitoring**

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2.	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3.	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5.	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8.	Children and Young People		√	

### **Financial Implications**

	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Sefton Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
Specific Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>	-	-	-	-
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Sefton funded Resources	-	-	-	-
Funded from External Resources	-	-	-	-
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

### **Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report**

Not applicable

### **List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report**

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The Standards Board has recently published two case summaries relating to recent investigations. Copies of the case summaries are attached at **Appendix 1** as follows:-
- (i) **Fenland District Council** - Complaint that the Member disclosed confidential information. The Ethical Standards Officer found that the Member did not breach the Code of Conduct.
  - (ii) **South Tyneside Council** - Complaint that the Member had failed to show respect to another Member and that he brought his office and/or his authority into disrepute. The Ethical Standards Officer found that the Member did not breach the Code of Conduct.
  - (iii) **Cornwall Council** - Complaint that the Member made an abusive and disreputable personal attack on individual members of the public and on local people generally. The Ethical Standards Officer (ESO) found that the Member's conduct was not on balance capable of damaging the reputation of the office of Councillor or of his Authority and he did not, therefore, fail to comply with paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct. In respect of an allegation of disrespect, the ESO found that the Member had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, but in the circumstances of the case, no further action needed to be taken.
- 3.2 Members are asked to note the details of the case summaries and determine whether it would be appropriate to circulate any of the case summaries to other Members of the Council or Parish Councillors.