

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 9 DECEMBER 2008

STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND – COMPLAINTS AGAINST ANGUS
COUNCILLORS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This Report advises of complaints received by the Standards Commission for Scotland against Angus Councillors in 2007/2008.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the terms of the Report.

2. BACKGROUND

The Ethical Standards in Public Life Etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 provided for a framework to encourage and, where necessary enforce, high ethical standards in public life. The Act established the Standards Commission for Scotland and placed a duty on local authorities to adopt the Code of Conduct for Councillors. It also provided a framework for breaches of those Codes to be investigated and adjudicated upon by the Standards Commission.

The Code sets out nine principles namely duty and public service, selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability and stewardship, openness, honesty, leadership and respect.

3. PERFORMANCE

During the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 Angus Councillors were referred to the Standards Commission for investigation on six separate occasions. No formal Commission Hearings in respect of complaints about Angus Councillors have been heard.

It is interesting to note that across Scotland the total number of complaints against Councillors made in 2007/2008 was 224 of which the largest category (67) related to misconduct in dealing with individual applications.

All complaints are dealt with in Angus Council on a confidential basis and only the complainer and the member complained of receive details of the investigation and its outcome.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this Report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human right implications arising from this Report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted on the content of this Report.

Colin McMahon
Director of Corporate Services

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

L&A/SCH