

ANGUS COUNCIL

12 MAY 2016

STANDARDS COMMISSION DECISION

REPORT BY SHEONA C HUNTER, HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

In terms of Section 18 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life Etc (Scotland) Act 2000 and Rule 10.9 of the Standards Commission's Hearing Rules, the Council requires to consider within three months, the terms of a written decision issued by the Standards Commission.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council considers the decision in case reference LA/An/1772 – Councillor Colin Brown.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit

3. BACKGROUND

Members will recall that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised members verbally at the Council meeting on 24 March 2016 of a decision by the Standards Commission to suspend Councillor Brown for a period of two months from 18 March 2016. At that stage, no letter had been received from the Standards Commission and the information was relayed from a statement contained within the Standards Commission's website.

On 25 March the formal letter notifying the Council of the decision was received and in terms of Section 18 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life Etc (Scotland) Act 2000 and Rule 10.9 of the Standards Commission's Hearing Rules, the Council requires to consider the content of any decision. Section 18(3) of the Act provides that this consideration cannot be undertaken solely by a committee, sub-committee or officers of the relevant Council or public body. Accordingly it is a requirement of the legislation that Angus Council considers the decision.

4. PROPOSALS

Attached as Appendix 1 to this Report is the formal decision of the Hearing Panel of the Standards Commission for Scotland following the hearing in Angus House held on 15 March 2016. Members are requested to consider the decision of the panel and any actions or decisions taken by the Council as a result of consideration of the decision require to be intimated to the Commissioner by 14 June 2016.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in connection with the consideration of this Report.

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

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Decision of the Panel Hearing