

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES)

COMPLAINT AGAINST CLLR BRIAN BELL STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 22nd January 2014	Classification Open Exempt: Witness statements, decision notices and Correspondence	Enclosures Investigator's Report and appendices Decision of the Assessment Sub- Committee (Exempt)
	Ward(s) affected Not applicable	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 In May 2013 complaints were submitted to the Monitoring Officer by five officers relating to the alleged conduct of Cllr Brian Bell during the recruitment process for a Head Teacher at Parkwood Primary School.
- 1.2 On 6th June 2013 a Standards Assessment Sub-Committee considered the complaints and decided that the Monitoring Officer should write to Cllr Bell asking him to apologise for his conduct to the complainants. An investigation into the complaint was ordered should Cllr Bell fail to apologise. After no apology was forthcoming, the matter was referred to the Interim Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services to investigate.
- 1.3 On 9th December 2013 the Investigator's Report was presented to the Assessment Sub-Committee. A decision was made to refer four of the complaints for a full hearing by the Standards Committee on the grounds that paragraph 3.1 of the Members' Code of Conduct had been breached. The Assessment Sub-Committee decided that the complaint would be withdrawn should Cllr Bell apologise by 5th January 2013. However despite the fact that the Decision Notices were sent to Cllr Bell with a letter explaining the Assessment Sub-Committee's offer of an opportunity to apologise to the complainants, no apology was forthcoming.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Standards Committee is asked to hear the complaints from GB, JL, Tricia Okoruwa and HR against Cllr Brian Bell.

3. RELATED DECISIONS

- 3.1 Reports of 6th June 2013 and 9th December 2013 to the Assessment Sub-Committee.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

5.1 There were five complaints made against Cllr Bell alleging breaches of Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5.2 The Investigator has found evidence of breaches of Paragraph 3.1 of the Members' Code of Conduct in relation to four of the complaints. The Investigator found no evidence of Paragraph 3.1 being breached in relation to one of the complaints and found no evidence of Paragraph 3.2 being breached in relation to any of the five complaints.

**GIFTY EDILA
MONITORING OFFICER
(Corporate Director for Legal, HR & Regulatory Services)**

List of Appendices

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**Appendix B - Decisions of the Assessment Sub-Committee, 9th December 2013
(Exempt) (pages 165-182)**