



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Standards Committee HELD AT THE Forli Room -
Town Hall ON 17 January 2011**

Present: D Whiles, B Fearon and Councillor N Khan

Also Present: Councillor D Fower

Officers Present: Rory Clarke, Legal Advisor
Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declaration of Interests (if any)

No declarations of interests were made.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

It was agreed that the meeting would be held in public.

4. Adjudication on a complaint received against a Council Member

CHAIRMAN
9.40 - 11.54 am

STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING

Summary of a Hearing in relation to a possible breach of the Members' Code of Conduct

17 January 2011, 9.30am
Forli Room, Town Hall

Name of Member	Councillor Darren Fower
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Relevant section of the Members' Code of Conduct	Finding of the Committee
4(a) – disclosing information given to you in confidence or acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature.	Breach of Code of Conduct
5 – conducting yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.	Breach of Code of Conduct
6 (a) – using your position as a member improperly to confer or secure an advantage or disadvantage	No case to answer

The Proceedings
<p>Following referral by the Investigation Officer, an investigation into a complaint made about Councillor Fower was presented to the Adjudication sub-committee of the Standards Committee for Peterborough City Council.</p> <p>In order to determine the findings of fact, the committee was addressed by the Investigation Officer and Councillor Fower. The committee questioned both parties to clarify any issues. The committee adjourned in order for the panel to determine the findings of fact.</p> <p>The findings of fact were presented to the Investigation Officer and Councillor Fower who were able to make representation about whether the findings constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct. The committee adjourned in order for the panel to determine whether the facts constituted a breach of the Code. The panel agreed that there had been a breach of the Code.</p> <p>Councillor Fower was able to make representations as what any sanction should be. The committee adjourned in order for the panel to determine any sanction. The panel agreed the sanctions as detailed below.</p> <p><i>Result</i></p>

The Chairman made recommendation to the Authority and then closed the meeting.

Sanction Imposed

The Panel see this as a serious breach of the Code of Conduct and therefore:

- 1. we censure Councillor Fower for divulging confidential information.**
- 2. we require that a written apology is provided to Councillor Goldspink within two weeks of today's date. A copy shall be provided to the Monitoring Officer.**
- 3. that Councillor Fower shall undertake appropriate training by the Monitoring Officer on the subject of trust and a councillor's duty not to disclose confidential information.**

Reasons

That a serious breach of the Code of Conduct which undermines the trust between Councillors and the public has occurred.

Right to Appeal

Councillor Fower has the right to apply in writing to the president of the Adjudication Panel for England for permission to appeal the standards committee's finding. The president of the Adjudication Panel must receive written notice within 28 days of the member's receipt of notification of the standards committee's finding.