

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Standards (Determination) Sub Committee    **DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Catherine Meek  
**(For all Enquiries)**    Deputy Borough Secretary (01753) 875011

**WARDS:**                      N/A

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **ALLEGED BREACH OF LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT – COUNCILLORS S CHAUDHRY, P CHOUDHRY, S DHALIWAL, M RASIB AND P SOHAL.**

1.    **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to submit for consideration the Council's Investigating Officer's report on the results of his investigation into a complaint that Councillors S Chaudry, P Choudhry, S Dhaliwal, Rasib and Sohal failed to comply with the Local Code of Conduct for Members (**Appendix A**).

2.    **Recommendation/Action Required**

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the Investigating Officer's report and decide what further action, if any, is required.

3.    **Community Strategy Priorities**

It is important that the public have confidence in all Members of the Council who are duty bound to abide by the provisions contained in the Local Code of Conduct for Members and the Council's own Ethical Framework. Furthermore, it is for the benefit of all Members that complaints made against them are fully investigated and dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down by Standards for England.

4.    **Other Implications**

There are no direct financial or staffing implications arising out of this report. The process of hearing and determining the allegation will be in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Standards Board for England. Any potential human rights issues which might arise are addressed and provided for in the hearing procedure.

## **5. Background Information**

- 5.1 On 28th March 2011 the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee referred to the Council's Monitoring Officer for investigation a complaint that Councillors S Chaudhry, P Choudhry, S Dhaliwal, Rasib and Sohal had failed to comply with the Local Code of Conduct. In accordance with the arrangement agreed by the Standards Committee, the Monitoring Officer delegated the conduct of the investigation to Graham White, Interim Head of Legal Services i.e. the Investigating Officer.
- 5.2 The complaint has been made by former Councillor Maclsaac. The general summary of the complaint is that the Subject Members' were predetermined when they voted against officer advice; referring for consultation the proposed amendments to the Council's Policy on convictions and cautions used when determining the grant, renewal, suspension or revocation of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers or operator licences.
- 5.3 To assist the hearing process all Subject Members' were asked to complete and return the following pre-hearing forms and the completed forms are attached as **Appendix B**:
- Form D – Arrangements for the Standards (Determination) Sub-Committee Hearing
- 5.4 Enclosed for your attention and/or information are the following documents:

<b><u>Appendix</u></b>	<b><u>Document</u></b>
<b>Appendix A</b>	Investigating Officer's Report
<b>Appendix B</b>	Pre-hearing forms submitted by Subject Members
<b>Appendix C</b>	Procedure for the hearing
<b>Appendix D</b>	Standards Board advice on admission of press and public
<b>Appendix E</b>	Categories of "exempt information"
<b>Appendix F</b>	Sanctions available to the Sub-Committee

- 5.5 The procedure for the hearing will be as set out in **Appendix C** and any guidance and/or advice the Sub-Committee may require will be provided by the Monitoring Officer.

## **6. Conclusion**

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the evidence presented and come to a decision as to what action, if any, should be taken in respect of this matter.

## **7. Background Papers**

None.