

Haringey Council

Report for:	Full Council on 26 February 2014	Item Number:	
Title:	Report on the outcome of the Standards Committee Hearing Sub-Committee 22 nd January 2014 – Complaint SC001/1213		
Report Authorised by:	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer		
Lead Officer:	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer <i>Bernie Ryan</i>		
Ward(s) affected:	N/A	Report for Non Key Decisions:	

1. Describe the issue under consideration

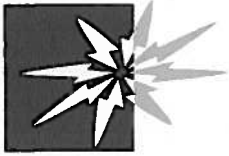
- 1.1 To inform the Council Meeting of the decision taken by the Standards Committee Hearing Sub-Committee on 22 January 2014 in response to a complaint made against an elected Member of the Council.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Council note the decision taken by the Standards Committee Hearing Sub-Committee on 22nd January 2014 as part of the Standards Committee's responsibility to determine complaints of breach of the Code of Conduct made against Members of this Council.



Haringey Council

4. Other options considered

N/A

5. Background information

- 5.1 On 22 January 2014 the Standards Committee hearing sub-committee met to consider complaints that Councillor Pauline Gibson had breached the Member Code of Conduct.
- 5.2 The sub-committee found that Councillor Gibson had subjected three members of the public (who subsequently made complaints about her) to unfair, unreasonable and demeaning treatment by making widely disseminated accusations of racism and discrimination against them in e-mails, when neither the content of those accusations, nor the choice of audience for them could be reasonably justified.
- 5.3 The sub-committee determined that the claims about the conduct of the complainants set out in e-mails by Councillor Gibson could not be objectively substantiated despite Councillor Gibson's strongly held belief to the contrary, and that she was reckless about the accuracy of some of the allegations that she made about the complainants.
- 5.4 By so doing the sub-committee concluded she had breached Paragraphs 3.1 (failure to treat the complainants with respect) and paragraph 3.4 (bringing her office of Councillor into disrepute) of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

SANCTION

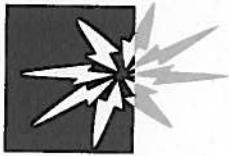
- 5.5 The sub-committee took into account a number of mitigating and aggravating factors and decided to censure Councillor Gibson for her conduct. They also referred the matter to the Labour Group chief whip with a recommendation that he review Councillor Gibson's Council appointments, particularly those where she is appointed to outside bodies.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

- 7.1 The hearing sub-committee is responsible for determining complaints made against elected Members of Haringey Council that they have breached the Haringey Code of Conduct for Councillors. The decisions taken by the hearing sub-committee were within the powers set out in law.



Haringey Council

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

N/A

9. Head of Procurement Comments

N/A

10. Policy Implication

N/A

11. Use of Appendices

N/A

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 12.1 Background papers
Decision of Hearing Panel 22 January 2014 and complaint reference
SC01/1213

