

Haringey Council

Report for:	Full Council on 9 th June 2014	Item Number:	
Title:	Report on the outcome of the Standards Committee Hearing Sub-Committee 29 th April 2014 – Complaint SC005/1314		
Report Authorised by:	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer <i>Bernie Ryan</i>		
Lead Officer:	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer		
Ward(s) affected: N/AI	Report for Non Key Decision		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

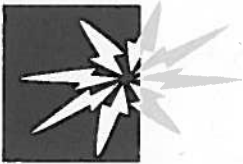
- 1.1 To inform the Council Meeting of the decision taken by the Standards Committee Hearing Sub-Committee on 29th April 2014 in response to a complaint made against an elected member of the Council.

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 29th April 2014 as part of the Standards Committee's responsibility to determine complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct made against members of this Council.



4. Other options considered

N/A

5. Background information

5.1 On 29th April 2014 the Standards Committee Hearing Sub-Committee met to consider a complaint that Councillor Sheila Peacock had breached the members' Code of Conduct. The Council's approved scheme for dealing with complaints against members provides that the Monitoring Officer shall report the decision of a Standards Committee to the next meeting of the Council.

5.2 The Sub-Committee found that Councillor Peacock had written and sent two letters on Mayor's headed paper from her Council laptop about a personal matter.

5.3 By taking these actions the Sub-Committee concluded she had failed to use the resources of the Council in accordance with its reasonable requirements contrary to paragraph 3.6(a) of the members' Code of Conduct. The sub-committee also found that in doing so Councillor Peacock had attempted to secure an improper advantage for herself contrary to paragraph 3.5 of the Code and that she had also brought her office of Mayor into disrepute in breach of paragraph 3.4 of the Code.

SANCTION

5.4 The Sub-Committee considered the breaches of the Code to be serious and censured Councillor Peacock for her conduct. They also agreed to instruct the Monitoring Officer to arrange training on the members' Code of Conduct within three months of the hearing. They also recommended to the Leader of the Council that their decision should be taken into consideration when making appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council and outside bodies. The sub-committee agreed that a notice summarising the decision be published on the Council website and appear in the next edition of Haringey People.

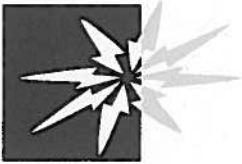
6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

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.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments



Haringey Council

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 29th April 2014 and complaint reference
SC005/1314**