

Case summary

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SBE case number	SBE19291.07
member	Councillor Bryan Wykes
authority	Watton Town Council
allegation	The member failed to treat others with respect, disclosed confidential information, brought their office or authority into disrepute and misused the authority's resources.
date received	3 August 2007
date completed	31 January 2007
SBE outcome	The ethical standards officer considered that in the circumstances of this case, no action needs to be taken.

Summary

The complainant alleged that Councillor Wykes had failed to comply with several of the requirements of the Code of Conduct in relation to the contents of a package of documents he produced and the manner in which he distributed it.

The ethical standards officer concluded that the package contained a single piece of confidential information and that Councillor Wykes had failed to comply with the Code in this respect by disclosing it.

While the ethical standards officer had concerns about the care Councillor Wykes had taken in distributing the package, she did not consider that he had failed to comply with any other requirements of the Code.

The ethical standards officer considered no further action to be necessary.

relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct

The allegations in this case relate to Paragraphs 2(b), 3(a), 4 and 5(b) of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 2(b) states that a member must "treat others with respect". The allegation in this case relates to Paragraph 3(a) of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 3(a) states that "a member must not disclose information given to him in confidence by anyone, or information acquired which he believes is of a confidential nature, without the consent of a person authorised to give it, or unless he is required by law to do so". Paragraph 4 states that "a member must not in his official capacity, or any other circumstance, conduct himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute". The allegation in this case relates to Paragraph 5(b) of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 5(b) states that a member "must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the authority – (i) act in accordance with the authority's requirements.

recommendations

Ends.