

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Standards Committee

11th February 2008

1. **CASE SUMMARIES**

Report of the Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT members note the contents of the report and the case summaries and consider any issues for the local authority.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform members of recent notable cases publicised by the Standards Board or the Adjudication Panel as these may add to the learning at the local level.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 From Spring 2008 the Standards Committee will have responsibility for much of the casework relating to the ethical standards framework.
- 3.2 As well as complying with legislation and guidance the Standards Committee will need to demonstrate learning from issues arising from local investigations and determinations. Further it would be advisable for Standards Committee to be kept informed of any particularly notable cases that are publicised by the Standards Board or the Adjudication Panel as they may also add to learning at the local level.
- 3.3 The case summary at Appendix 1 concerns a former Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council councillor who was disqualified for four years for fraudulently claiming expenses for childcare from the authority. He had brought his office and authority into disrepute.

- 3.4 The case summary at Appendix 2 concerns a former council leader at Dartford Borough Council who accessed child pornography on a council computer. He was disqualified for five years. He had brought his office into disrepute.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

By considering national cases of significance the Standards Committee will be better informed and placed to discharge duties in relation to local assessments, reviews, referrals, investigations and determinations.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Case Summaries and Press Releases – Standards Board for England.

N SHARMA
MONITORING OFFICER