

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	24 June 2015
DIRECTOR	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Written Decision of Standards Commission Hearing
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/15/025
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report fulfils the statutory requirement of submitting the written decision of the recent Standards Commission hearing to the Council for consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council considers the written decision of the Standards Commission and notifies the Commission of any actions or decisions taken by 7 August, 2015.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The decision will have implications for the interpretation by monitoring officers of paragraph 3.16 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

(1) On 11 February 2015, the Standards Commission commenced the hearing in respect of a report by the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland following complaints alleging that seven members had breached the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The hearing resumed on 15 April and ended the following day, and the panel concluded that there had been no breach of the Code.

(2) The decision of the Panel was issued on 7 May and, in terms of s18 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000, the Council is required to consider this decision, a copy of which is appended, and advise the Commission of any actions or decisions taken by 7 August 2015.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – The decision provides an interpretation of paragraph 3.16 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct which is likely to affect how the monitoring officer interprets this in future.

Public – Given that the hearing arose following the submission of complaints by members of the public against the actions of certain members, there is likely to be considerable interest in the Council's response to the formal decision.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There could be an impact should the Council take decisions in future which relate to a campaign which has the support of or is opposed by more than one political party and the monitoring officer will require to give advice at the time should such a situation transpire.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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