

## **Standards Committee**

**23 November 2016**



### **Standards Committee Hearing Panel- Alleged Breaches of West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council's Code of Conduct**

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## **Report of Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the outcome of a hearing to consider a number of complaints concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Mark Gilbank of West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council.

### **Background**

2. A Hearing Panel of the Standards Committee was convened on 6 September 2016 following an investigation by the Council's Governance Solicitor who had concluded that breaches of the Code of Conduct had occurred.
3. The Hearing Panel determined that paragraph 1 of the West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council Code of Conduct had been breached and requested Councillor Gilbank to make a public apology to those who had cause to complain of his behaviour as a Parish Councillor. The Panel also requested that Councillor Gilbank undertake training on the Code of Conduct.
4. Councillor Gilbank made a public statement of apology at the meeting of West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council on 15 September 2016 and attended a training session on the Code of Conduct on 21 September 2016.
5. A copy of the Decision Notice of the Standards Committee Hearing Panel is attached at Appendix 2 for information.

### **Recommendation**

6. The Standards Committee is requested to note the outcome of the Hearing Panel.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance:** None

**Staffing:** None

**Risk:** None

**Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty:** The decision to investigate emphasised the importance attached to compliance with this duty

**Accommodation:** None

**Crime and Disorder:** None

**Human Rights:** None

**Consultation:** None

**Procurement:** None

**Disability Discrimination Act:** None

**Legal Implications:** As set out in the report