

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF: NICK GODDARD
CORPORATE MANAGER – DEMOCRATIC & LEGAL SERVICES
(MONITORING OFFICER)

REPORT NO. DLS57

DATE: 20TH DECEMBER 2005

TITLE:	Investigation under S.66 of the Local Government Act 2000 into an allegation concerning Councillor Guy Cudmore a member of the Bourne Town Council
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	N/A
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	N/A
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	N/A

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	N/A
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	N/A
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Members Code of Conduct

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 By letter dated 12th July 2005 the Standards Board for England referred the investigation of an allegation made against Councillor Guy Cudmore to be investigated by myself as Monitoring Officer of the District Council.

2. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 2.1 I have carried out an investigation into the circumstances of the publishing of an article by Councillor Cudmore on a public website that allegedly breached the Code of Conduct and considered the allegation by reviewing the relevant sections of the Members Code of Conduct. I have interviewed the complainant and officers of the District Council named or linked to the article and received comments and provided by Councillor Cudmore.
- 2.2 A confidential draft report was compiled from the information gathered during the investigation. The draft report was sent to Councillor Cudmore, the complainant and the Standards Board for comment. Any comments received have been considered and the final report has been produced. This is attached as a confidential appendix to this report.
- 2.3 The findings of the report are that Councillor Cudmore, in publishing an article in June 2005 did breach the Local Code of Conduct for Members.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Standards Committee consider the report and its findings and come to a decision in respect of Councillor Cudmore's conduct.

4. CONTACT OFFICER

Nick Goddard, Monitoring Officer
South Kesteven District Council