

**THE ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF  
GATESHEAD COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF 12 APRIL 2010**

**DECISION NOTICE: Other Action -  
Referral of the matter to the Monitoring Officer\***

**Case Reference: 06**

**Complaint**

On 12 April 2010 the Assessment Sub-Committee of Gateshead Council's Standards Committee considered a complaint from Miss L Bryce and Mrs J Arnell concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor John McElroy.

In summary, the complaint alleged the conduct and behaviour of the councillor at school review consultation meetings was in breach of the Code of Conduct.

**The Hearing**

In accordance with the Council's established procedures the Monitoring Officer convened an Assessment Sub-Committee to consider the complaint.

The Monitoring Officer presented a report and a copy of the complaint form.

The Sub-Committee considered the initial tests and agreed that the councillor was a member of the Council at the time of the alleged conduct, that the Code of Conduct was in force at that time, and that the complaint, if proven, would be a breach of the Code.

**Decision**

In accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Assessment Sub-Committee decided to refer the allegation to the monitoring officer for him to take steps to ensure that members of the Council are given appropriate training on the chairing of public meetings, managing contentious situations, and awareness of diversity issues.

**What happens now?**

The Monitoring Officer will take the action requested by the Sub-Committee.

**Judith Common**

**Chair of the Assessment Sub-Committee**

*(\*In deciding to refer a matter to the Monitoring Officer, the Assessment Sub-Committee makes no finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct.)*