

**Case studies for Audit Committee January 2020**

**Case 1**

Allegations were received in December 2018 concerning a former elected member that he had made false declarations on his housing applications and later a homeless application.

He claimed to have been evicted from his parents address in January 2006 and was accepted and accommodated by the Homelessness Service from 2006 to 2010. In 2007 a year after being accepted onto the housing register, he purchased a 3 bedroom, end of terrace house, in Barking which he rented out privately and failed to notify the Council of his change of circumstances.

In 2010, after making some 450 bids for properties, he successfully bid and was allocated to a 3 bedroom property on the Lansbury Estate managed by Poplar Harca.

In 2013 he purchased his parents address that he had purported to have been evicted from to support his homeless status. He purchased this property for less than half its market value.

The former Councillor was prosecuted by the council on failure to notify a change of circumstance and making over 450 bids for properties he was not entitled to.

He pleaded guilty, and having agreed the losses, immediately repaid the Council £125K.

At the sentencing he was convicted on both charges and received a 24-month concurrent custodial sentence which was discounted by a third to 16 months (concurrent) as a result of mitigation and submitting an early guilty plea. In addition, costs were awarded to the Council.