

<b>SUBJECT</b>	Complaints Monitoring Report 2019/2020
<b>RELEVANT MEMBER</b>	Chairman of Audit & Standards Committee – Councillor John Gladwin
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Monitoring Officer- Joanna Swift <a href="mailto:joanna.swift@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk">joanna.swift@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</a> Tel : 01494 732761
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	None

### 1. Purpose of Report

This report informs the Committee about complaints received by the monitoring officer in 2019/20 that members have breached the code of conduct.

### RECOMMENDATION:

**That the complaints information for 2019/20 is noted.**

### 2. Reasons for Recommendations

It is good practise for the Council to review the complaints received about members on a regular basis and consider any action required to address issues raised.

### 3. Content of Report

3.1 The Committee monitors complaints on an annual basis due to the historically low number of complaints made against elected and co-opted members of local authorities in Chiltern District.

3.2 As the Committee is aware from 1 July 2012 the responsibility for assessing, investigating and hearing complaints about member conduct was passed to principal councils under the Localism Act 2011, together with the discretion to adopt local arrangements. The Committee reviewed these arrangements in 2019 and a copy of the current Complaints Procedure is attached at Appendix 1 for information. Although the Localism Act removed the responsibility for Chiltern District Council to ensure high standards of conduct amongst town and parish councils in the district, any complaints that town or parish councillors may have breached their council's code of conduct are also dealt with under this complaints procedure.

3.3 There are a total of 219 elected and co-opted members of the district/town parish councils in Chiltern and historically the number of formal complaints about councillors has been very low. This trend has continued in the last financial year and the Committee will be pleased to note that no formal complaints about district council members and no complaints about town/parish councillors have been received.

3.4 The position for 2019/20 is set out in the following table, together with the figures for 2018/19 by way of comparison.

Authority	2019/2020	2018/2019
CDC	0	3
Town/ Parish Councils	0	1
Total	0	4

#### 4. Consultation

Not applicable.

#### 5. Options (if any)

The report provides a factual summary of the complaints received.

#### 6. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications:

6.1 Financial- None

6.2 Legal – As set out in the report

6.3 Risks issues – None

6.4 Equalities - None

#### 7. Unitary Implications (if applicable)

Responsibility for assessing, investigating and hearing complaints about member conduct will transfer to the Unitary Authority from 1 April 2020.

#### 8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Whilst there is no direct link to the Council's main objectives the Council has a statutory obligation to adopt a Code of Conduct.

#### 9. Next Steps

This is the last complaints monitoring report for Chiltern District Council.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	None except those referred to in the report
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#### Appendices

Appendix 1- Complaints Procedure