

QUARTERLY UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS

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Wards affected: All.

PROPOSED DECISION

To note the report.

Reason for Decision

To provide the Committee with an overview of complaints about Member conduct since June 2014.

Corporate Implications

1. The Localism Act 2011, Sections 26 - 37 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 set out the current legislative framework relating to standards of conduct for elected members and arrangements for handling member standards complaints.
2. In order to enable Standards Committee to maintain an overview of complaints and any trends emerging, reports will be presented quarterly.

Executive Summary

3. This report provides Standards Committee with an overview of recent complaint cases.

Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications

None.

Background and Issues

4. Standards Committee is presented with quarterly updates on member conduct complaints.
5. Since the last committee on 9 June 2015, there have been no new complaints submitted. In June 2015, Standards Committee noted that there had been 25 complaints between July 2012 and March 2015, and 5 complaints between March 2015 and June 2015. All complaints had been completed by January 2015.
6. Standards Committee is invited to note that no further complaints have been submitted since June 2015 and that there are no current complaints being dealt with.

Options

None; this report is for noting only.

Conclusions

7. Although these reports merely present a snapshot of the current position as at the date of each Committee meeting, given that no new complaints have been made since June 2015, and the relatively small number of complaints which have been submitted and handled since July 2012, it appears that in general, ethical standards

are being taken seriously by both District and Town and Parish Council members and that Member training has been effective.

Next Steps

8. Further update reports will be provided to Standards Committee quarterly.

Background Papers

None