

QUARTERLY UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS

Officer contact: Julie Openshaw District Solicitor and Monitoring Officer 01494 421252 julie.openshaw@wycombe.gov.uk

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 October 2015.

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 in October 2015 two new complaints have been submitted. Both relate to members of Parish Councils. One complaint is currently at Stage 1 and the other is proceeding to Stage 2. By way of reminder, Stage 1 is the point at which the complaint is sent to the subject member for response, and Stage 2 is the point at which the subject member has responded but the complainant has indicated that they are not satisfied with the response and wish the Monitoring Officer in consultation with an Independent Person to consider whether the matter should be referred for investigation. Both complaints will

continue to proceed through the protocol and an update as to progress will be supplied to the next meeting of Standards Committee.

Options

None; this report is for noting only.

Conclusions

6. The small number of current complaints, following there having been none for the June quarter, suggests that ethical standards continue to be taken seriously by District, Town and Parish Councillors.

Next Steps

7. Further updates will continue to be provided quarterly.

Background Papers

None.