

Standards Committee 9 October 2018

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 5 June 2018.

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 standards complaints. The Member Code of Conduct and complaints procedure are included in Part 5 of the Council's published Constitution.
2. In order to enable Standards Committee to maintain an over view of complaints and any trends emerging, reports will be presented quarterly.

Executive Summary

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

Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications

4. None.

Background and Issues

5. Standards Committee is presented with quarterly updates on member conduct complaints.
6. Since the report to Committee on 5 June 2018, one complaint has been dealt with as set out in Appendix 1. There are no current complaints outstanding.

Options

7. None, this report is for noting only.

Conclusions

8. As with recent reports, there continues to be overall a relatively small number of complaints, and so far none have been referred for investigation. The involvement of the view of an Independent Person in each decision, as required

by the legal framework, continues to provide a valuable check and balance to the Monitoring Officer to ensure decisions made at Stage 2, i.e. whether or not a formal investigation should be carried out into a complaint, are proportionate and reasonable. The recently appointed second Independent Person will begin to participate in some future complaints which proceed to Stage 2. The Annual Report of Standards Committee to full Council will also continue to provide an additional composite overview of complaints recently handled.

Next Steps

9. Further quarterly updates will be provided.

Background Papers

None.