

SUMMARY



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| Report For: | Standards Committee |
| Meeting Date: | 19 February 2019 |
| Part: | Part 1 - Open |
| If Part 2, reason: | N/A |

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| Title of Report: | QUARTERLY UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS |
| Officer Contact: Direct Dial: Email: | Julie Openshaw 01494 421421252 julie.openshaw@wycombe.gov.uk |
| Ward(s) affected: | All |
| Reason for the Decision: | To provide the Committee with an overview of complaints about member conduct since 9 October 2018. |
| Proposed Decision/Recommendation: | That the report be noted. |
| Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications | Risk: Monitoring complaints helps to mitigate the risk of major issues with member conduct complaints arising, by allowing recurrent themes which may arise to be identified and addressed if necessary. Equalities: None. Health & Safety: None. |
| Monitoring Officer/ S.151 Officer Comments | Monitoring Officer: This is the Monitoring Officer's report. S.151 Officer: No direct financial implications. |
| Consultees: | Any complaints which reach Stage 2 are subject to consultation by the Monitoring Officer with one of the duly appointed Independent Persons. |
| Options: | None; the report is for noting only. |
| Next Steps: | Further quarterly updates will be provided. |
| Background Papers: | None. |
| Abbreviations: | None. |

Appendices to this report are as follows:

Appendix 1; list of complaints since 9 October 2018.

Detailed Report

1. Standards Committee is presented with quarterly updates on member conduct complaints.
2. On 9 October 2018, there were no current complaints outstanding.
3. Since 9 October and the time of compilation of this report, three new complaints have been made, each of which have now been completed, at Stage 2. None of the complaints have proceeded to investigation. As well as these complaints, and before they were lodged, two other potential complaints (from different complainants and against different subject members) were received, but in due course, after having been advised of the remit of the member standards complaints process, how the “sifting” stage operates, and the available sanctions, the complainants did not pursue them to the first stage.
4. Successive quarterly reports continue to evidence a continuing relatively small number of complaints, of which none so far 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 Annual Report of Standards Committee to full Council will also continue to provide an additional composite overview of complaints recently handled.