

Standards Committee 9 January 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 October 2017.

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 10 October 2017, at which time completion of three complaints was reported, with three remaining at Stage 1, those three have all been completed, and one further new complaint have been submitted which is currently at Stage 1. The response from the Subject Member is awaited on this one.

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, provides 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 draft Annual Report of Standards Committee to full Council, to be considered at the next Standards Committee meeting in March, will provide a more thorough overview of complaints recently handled.

Next Steps

9. Further quarterly updates will be provided.

Background Papers

None.