

Report To:	STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL APPEALS COMMITTEE	Date:	2 JULY 2018
Heading:	QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS UPDATE		
Portfolio Holder:	N/A		
Ward/s:	N/A		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

This report provides an update in respect of Members' Code of Conduct complaints.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is requested to note the updated position in respect of Members' Code of Conduct complaints as set out in the Appendix for the period commencing on 21 March 2018 to 22 June 2018.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To reflect good practice. To enable Members to monitor the volume and progress of complaints.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

No alternative options are considered appropriate.

Detailed Information

This report outlines in the Appendix the number of complaints of alleged Member misconduct which have been received since the last update and a summary of those which are outstanding.

1 new complaint has been received regarding a District Councillor since the last report was presented to Members in March 2018. Initial enquiries are underway with this complaint.

In light of recent complaints relating to Selston Parish Council, one of the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officers has been attending Selston Parish Council meetings to observe and provide general guidance and feedback to the Parish in relation to governance issues.

Following the recommendation of this Committee, the Council, at the AGM, approved the appointment of two Parish Council Co-optees to the Committee. Councillor Jason Zadrozny has been appointed by Annesley Parish Council and Selston Parish Council will consider its appointment at its meeting on 25 June (a verbal update will be given at the Committee meeting).

The revised Members' Complaints Process produced by this Committee was also approved at the Council AGM in May and will be applied to complaints going forward.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Council will strive to ensure effective community leadership, through good governance, transparency, accountability and appropriate behaviours.

Legal:

There are no legal issues identified as a result of this monitoring report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The Authority incurs costs in investigating complaints of alleged Member misconduct and these charges are borne by the General Fund. The Council investigates complaints in house as far as possible to reduce costs. Where complaints need to be investigated externally these costs are expected to be contained within existing budgets.
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
The Council has recognised the following Corporate Risk: <i>Members' Ethical Framework – Failure to demonstrate high standards of behaviour (CR003)</i>	The Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee approves an annual work programme to consider how it will ensure high standards of ethical behaviour. A review of the Members' Code of Conduct

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant resource to deal with implications of Code of Conduct Complaints • Potential for negative perception of the Council which impacts upon the Council's reputation • Potentially adverse impact upon the workings of the Council • New legislation does not provide "strong" sanctions for breaches to the Code which may make regulation of poor ethical behaviour difficult and leave complainants dissatisfied with outcomes. 	<p>Complaints Process and Social Media Policy was carried out during 2017/2018 in accordance with the recommendations of the LGA Peer Challenge 2017 and the Council approved changes at the AGM in May 2018.</p> <p>Presentation of Quarterly Complaint Monitoring reports to Standards and Personnel ensures ongoing monitoring of complaints to identify trends and areas for improvement.</p> <p>Council has approved the appointment of two Parish Co-optees to the Committee to encourage Parish involvement in the process in light of recently high levels of complaints in relation to one of the Parishes.</p>
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Human Resources:

There are no HR issues relating to this monitoring report.

Equalities:

(to be completed by the author)

There are no equalities issues relating to this monitoring report.

Other Implications:

(if applicable)

None.

Background Papers

None.

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