

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL APPEALS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 OCTOBER 2019</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>		

### **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.

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

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

### **Alternative Options Considered**

No alternative options are considered appropriate.

### **Detailed Information**

This report outlines in the Appendix the number of complaints of alleged Member misconduct which remain outstanding and a summary overview of the status of ongoing complaints.

Since the last update to the Committee:

- 1 complaint relating to District Councillors has been concluded with summary details contained in the report;

- 8 complaints relating to District Councillors are currently being investigated;
- There have been no new formal complaints in this period.

## **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 implications associated with this monitoring report.

### **Finance:**

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The Authority incurs costs in investigating complaints of alleged Member misconduct if investigations are carried out externally, 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. One investigation is currently being carried out externally as set out in the Appendix.
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

### **Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<p>The Council has recognised the following Corporate Risk:</p> <p><i>Members' Ethical Framework – Failure to demonstrate high standards of behaviour (CR003)</i></p> <p>Significant resource to deal with implications of Code of Conduct Complaints.</p>	<p>The Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee approves an annual work programme to consider how it will ensure high standards of ethical behaviour.</p> <p>Presentation of Quarterly Complaint Monitoring reports to Standards and Personnel Appeal Committee ensures ongoing monitoring of complaints to identify trends and areas for improvement.</p> <p>Council has approved the appointment of two Parish</p>

<p>Potential for negative perception of the Council which impacts upon the Council's reputation.</p> <p>Potentially adverse impact upon the workings of the Council.</p> <p>The 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>	<p>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:**

There are no equalities issues relating to this monitoring report.

**Other Implications:**

None.

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

**Ruth Dennis**

**DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE**

**MONITORING OFFICER**

**[r.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:r.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk)**

**01623 457009**