

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL APPEALS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>3 OCTOBER 2023</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS AND GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY MONITORING</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</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 up until the end of quarter 2 (April – September 2023). All complaints received after this date will be presented in the next quarterly update.

Information is also provided detailing Members Gifts and Hospitality declarations during 2023.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the updated position in respect of Members' Code of Conduct complaints and Gifts and Hospitality declarations as set out in Appendix A.

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

To enable the Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee to monitor the volume and progress of complaints and gifts and hospitality declarations.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

No alternative options are considered appropriate.

## **Detailed Information**

### **COMPLAINTS – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2023**

There have been 2 complaints submitted during the period June - September 2023. 2 complaints have been resolved with 1 completed subject to the Independent Persons comments. 1 complaint remains subject to external investigation and 1 long term complaint that remains ongoing. Please see Appendix A for a full up-to-date schedule of complaints.

### **GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2023**

There have been no declarations of received gifts and hospitality from April to June 2023.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

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

### **Legal:**

There are no direct legal implications resulting from the recommendations within this report. [RLD 25/09/2023]

### **Finance:**

The Council incurs costs investigating complaints of alleged Member misconduct if investigations are carried out externally. These costs are met through the General Fund. The Council investigates complaints internally as much as possible to reduce costs. Where complaints need to be investigated externally these costs are expected to be contained within existing budgets.

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Not applicable.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

**Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Potential for negative perception of the Council which impacts the Council's reputation. Potentially adverse impact upon the workings of the Council. Associated legislation does not provide "strong" sanctions for breaches to the Members' Code of Conduct which may make regulation of poor ethical behaviour difficult and leave complainants dissatisfied with outcomes.	The Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee approves an annual work programme to consider how it will ensure high standards of ethical behaviour. Presentation of Quarterly Complaint Monitoring reports to the Standards and Personnel Appeal Committee ensures ongoing monitoring of complaints to identify trends and areas for improvement.

**Human Resources:**

There are no direct HR implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

**Environmental/Sustainability:**

There are no direct environmental/sustainability implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

**Equalities:**

Any equalities implications identified through the investigation of complaints are duly investigated and reported on.

**Other Implications:**

There are no other implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

*None*

## **Reason(s) for Exemption**

*None*

## **Background Papers**

*None*

## **Report Author and Contact Officer**

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