

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL APPEALS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 DECEMBER 2017</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	N/A		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	N/A		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	NO		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	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 6 October 2017 to 30 November 2017.**

### **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.

### **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
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant resource to deal with implications of Code of Conduct Complaints.</li> <li>• Potential for negative perception of the Council which impacts upon the Council’s reputation</li> <li>• Potentially adverse impact upon the workings of the Council</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee approves an annual work programme which includes an annual review.</li> <li>• A review of the Members’ Code of Conduct Complaints Process will be carried out during 2017/2018 in accordance with the recommendations of the LGA Peer Challenge 2017.</li> <li>• Present Quarterly Complaint Monitoring reports to Standards and Personnel (Appeals) Committee. (This report)</li> <li>• The Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee has agreed in its 17/18 work plan to review the Complaints Process, the Code and guidance relating to social media use. The Committee has established a working group of members from the Committee to work with the Monitoring Officer to review best practice and make recommendations to the Committee.</li> </ul>

**Human Resources:**

There are no HR implications associated with this monitoring report.

**Equalities (to be completed by the author):**

There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with this monitoring report.

**Other Implications:**

None.

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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