



<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b>

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**SUBJECT:                   Complaints Update to the Standards Committee**

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## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update Members on complaints received regarding Members conduct under the Arrangements for dealing with complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked:

- i) to note the update report.
- ii) to note that there were no new complaints in progress as at 15th December 2017.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

The Committee has a role in considering any complaints received relating to the conduct of Members of the Borough Council, co-opted Members and Parish Councils in its area. Members will be aware that not all complaints are proceeded with for various reasons (unsubstantiated complaints, vexatious complaints etc.) however it is important that members are aware of receipt of these and legitimate complaints that are being processed and progressed.

Members of the Committee are to be kept up to date on receipt of all complaints and progress at meetings of the Standards Committee where appropriate subject to any relevant provisions relating to confidentiality.

At the meeting in October 2017 the Monitoring Officer reported there were three complaints ongoing subject to the Complaints process. The updates are as follows:

The first case was related to a Town Council complaint. Following investigation and appropriate consultation with the independent person there was no finding against the town councillor but a series of recommendations for the Town Council with regards to administrative matters.

The second complaint was from a person who had expressed concern as regards a comment made by a councillor in the press. The councillor confirmed if there had been any misunderstanding then they apologised, and this case was closed.

The third case involved complaints about a councillor going back over some time following investigation and consultation with the independent person it was concluded there was no failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

This report is up Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The Committee will be updated at its next meeting of any complaints received and registered after this date.

#### **4. RATIONALE**

The Localism Act requires Councils to put in place mechanisms for reporting and investigation of complaints. This report provides information for the Standards Committee in a clear and transparent way to ensure that all members of the committee are aware of complaints received, progress and outcomes.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The statutory provisions for the Standards Framework are set out in the Localism Act 2011.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

A governance framework in local authorities is necessary to promote and maintain high ethical standards, and to ensure public confidence.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None contained in this report.

#### **8. CONSULTATIONS**

The Council's arrangements for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct have been discussed by the Standards Committee and the arrangements for dealing with complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members are the subject of this report, to ensure openness and transparency to Members of the Committee on complaints received and progress.

#### **Chief Officer/Member**

Contact Officer: David Fairclough  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Background Papers: The Localism Act 2011