



<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> October 2017</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 are three complaints in progress as at 3rd October 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 July 2017 the Monitoring Officer reported there was one complaint ongoing subject to the Complaints process.

This case was considered at a Hearing on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and was reported to Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Since July there have been three further complaints received.

These complaints were all received in September and initial assessment is therefore ongoing. The total numbers of complaints in due process at this time (3 October 2017) is therefore three. The Committee will be updated at its next meeting as matters progress.

## **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: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

Background Papers: The Localism Act 2011