



**REPORT OF:**           **The Monitoring Officer**

**TO:**                       **Standards Committee**

**DATE:**                  **14<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

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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 to note the update report.

## **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 2018 the Monitoring Officer reported on cases up to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 all of which had been resolved.

This report is up Friday 21st December 2018.

In October 2018, a complaint was made about the conduct of a Councillor but the member of the public did not proceed to provide details and so the matter was closed.

In November 2018, a complaint was made about the conduct of another Councillor but the member of the public did not proceed to provide details and so the matter was closed.

## **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: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Background Papers: The Localism Act 2011