

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Saima Afzal

**PORTFOLIO COORDINATING
DIRECTOR: David Fairclough**

Complaints Update to the Standards Committee

The Committee received a report confirming that no complaints had been received regarding Members Conduct under the Arrangements for dealing with complaints about the `Code of Conduct for Members`. The report covered the period between 21st December 2018 and 1st March 2019. The Committee is kept up to date on complaints received throughout the year, how these are being dealt with and outcomes.

Handling Vexatious Complaints and the Code of Practice

The Committee considered the current arrangements for handling vexatious complaints and supporting guidance. No Changes were proposed.

Local Government Ethical Standards

The Committee reviewed the Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life published in January 2019, on the subject of ethical standards in local government. The Localism Act 2011 provides the current legal framework for local authority standards. The report presented to the Prime Minister by the Committee for Standards in Public Life, provides a series of recommendations related to potential changes to this framework. The Standards Committee noted that should a number of these recommendations be adopted by government they would change the current Standards Regime and process adopted by Councils and therefore amend the responsibilities of the Standards Committee and the arrangements for the handling Code of Conduct Complaints. The full report is publicly available via:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-ethical-standards

**Councillor Saima Afzal
Chair of the Standards Committee.**