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| REPORT OF: | The Monitoring Officer |
| TO: | Standards Committee |
| DATE: | 15 January 2020 |

SUBJECT: Complaints Update to the Standards Committee

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 up to 30th November 2019.

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.

Further to the report at their meeting in October 2019 the Committee is advised that during October 2019 a complaint was received regarding an elected members alleged conduct towards an officer. Following a meeting with the complainant supported by a Deputy Monitoring Officer the elected member offered an apology, which was accepted, by the officer concerned and therefore no further action was required under the procedure.

Up to 30th November 2019 there were no further complaints received under the Members Complaints Procedures.

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 Council has adopted the Code and the arrangements for dealing with member complaints, which it must follow when a formal complaint is received.

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: 30th December 2019

Background Papers: The Localism Act 2011