



Audit and Standards Committee Report

Report of: The Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal and Governance

Date: 12 January 2017

Subject: Update on Standards Complaints

Author of Report: Dave Ross, Democratic Services

Summary:

The report provides a summary of the complaints considered under the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
NO Cleared by:
Legal Implications
NO Cleared by:
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
Not applicable
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the outcome of the complaints considered under the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints regarding City, Parish and Town Councillors and Co-opted Members that was adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 25 March 2015.
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 requires Councils to promote high standards of Member conduct, adopt a Code of Conduct and introduce a process for investigating complaints.
- 1.3 The Procedure sets out how the Council will deal with a complaint alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct. To assist the Monitoring Officer and this Committee in dealing with complaints, the Council appointed three Independent Persons (Stuart Carvell, Marvyn Moore and David Waxman).
- 1.4 The first stage of the Procedure is the assessment of the complaint. Following consultation with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer will consider if the allegation constitutes a potential breach of the Code of Conduct and take one of the following courses of action:-
- 1) Take no action or
 - 2) Take other action through informal resolution or
 - 3) Refer the matter for investigation

2.0 Summary of Complaints

- 2.1 Since the introduction of the new Procedure last year, 27 formal complaints have been received and their outcome is as follows:-

Take no action - 16
Informal resolution - 3
Referred for investigation - 0

6 complaints are still to be concluded and 2 complaints were not accepted due to a significant amount of time having passed since the alleged incidents took place.

- 2.2 Of the 27 complaints considered, 14 were submitted by members of the public, 10 by councillors and 3 by community organisations. As seven of the complaints related to the same issue they were dealt with as a single complaint.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

**Gillian Duckworth,
Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal and Governance**

