



## Audit and Standards Committee Report

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

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**Date:** 14 September 2017

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**Subject:** Update on Standards Complaints

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**Author of Report:** Dave Ross, Democratic Services  
(Tel - 0114 273 5033)

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**Summary:**

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

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**Recommendations:**

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

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**Background Papers:**

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**Category of Report:** OPEN

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## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

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

## **UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS**

### **1. 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. The Procedure is attached as an appendix to the report.
- 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. Summary of Complaints**

- 2.1 Of the 16 complaints received to date in 2017, the current position is:-

Take No Action – 11\*

Informal Resolution – 1\*

Referred for Investigation - 2

Not a valid complaint - 1

Not acting in an official capacity - 1

To be assessed - 1

(\*Note: The assessment decision on one complaint was to take no action on part and an informal resolution on the other part)

- 2.2 In addition, two complaints from 2016 are due to be considered by the Consideration Sub-Committee in September 2017. One complaint was referred direct to the Sub-Committee as the complainant did not accept the proposed informal resolution. The second complaint was referred for investigation as the proposed informal resolution was not accepted by either the complainant or the member.

### **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**