



Standards Committee Report

Report of: The Monitoring Officer

Date: 24 June 2015

Subject: Update on Standards Complaints

Author of Report: Dave Ross, Democratic Services

Summary:

The report provides information on the complaints considered under the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints in 2014/15.

Recommendations:

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

Background Papers: Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints - July 2013

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
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Councillor Ben Curran (Finance and Resources)
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 The report provides information on the complaints considered under the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints during 2014/15.
- 1.2 The Procedure was adopted by the Council in July 2012 to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 for Councils to promote high standards of Member conduct, adopt a Code of Conduct and introduce a process for investigating complaints. The Council also appointed three Independent Persons to assist the Monitoring Officer and Standards Committee in dealing with complaints (Stuart Carvell, Marvyn Moore and David Waxman).
- 1.3 Further to consideration at the meeting of this committee on 22 January 2015, a new Procedure for Dealing with Complaints regarding City, Parish and Town Councillors and Co-opted Members was approved by Full Council at its meeting on 25 March 2015.

2.0 Summary of Complaints

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer considered complaints relating to potential breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct in consultation with one of the three Independent Persons.
- 2.2 14 complaints were considered under the previous Procedure during 2014/15 and a summary is set out below:-

Case Reference	Complainant	Council	Outcome
2014.01	Community organisation	Sheffield	Referred for Investigation and no failure to comply with the Code of Conduct
2014.02	Member of the public	Sheffield	No further action as further information not received (superseded by 2014.09)
2014.03	Community organisation	Sheffield	Referred for Investigation and no failure to comply with the Code of Conduct
2014.04	Member of the public	Sheffield	Not a Standards matter
2014.05	Councillor	Stocksbridge	Apology offered
2014.06	Councillor	Stocksbridge	No potential breach of the Code
2014.07	Member of the public	Sheffield	Written complaint not received
2014.08	Community organisation	Sheffield	No potential breach of the Code of Conduct

2014.09	Member of the public	Sheffield	No potential breach of the Code of Conduct
2014.10	Member of the public	Sheffield	No further action as insufficient information to identify the Councillor
2014.11	Trade Union	Sheffield	Referred for Investigation and no failure to comply with the Code of Conduct
2015.01	Member of the public	Sheffield	No potential breach of the Code of Conduct
2015.02	Member of the public	Sheffield	No potential breach of the Code of Conduct
2015.03	Member of the public	Sheffield	No potential breach of the Code of Conduct

2.3 No complaints have been received under the new Procedure that was adopted in March and there will be a review of the Procedure in a year's time.

3.0 Recommendation

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

Monitoring Officer