

Report To:	STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL APPEALS COMMITTEE	Date:	10 DECEMBER 2018
Heading:	QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS UPDATE		
Portfolio Holder:	NOT APPLICABLE		
Ward/s:	NOT APPLICABLE		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

This report provides an update in respect of Members' Code of Conduct complaints.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is requested to note the updated position in respect of Members' Code of Conduct complaints as set out in the Appendix for the period commencing on 23 June 2018 to 30 November 2018.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To reflect good practice. To enable Members to monitor the volume and progress of complaints.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

No alternative options are considered appropriate.

Detailed Information

This report outlines in the Appendix the number of complaints of alleged Member misconduct which have been received since the last update and a summary of those which are outstanding.

9 new complaints have been received regarding a District Councillor since the last report was presented to Members in July 2018.

In light of recent complaints relating to Selston Parish Council, one of the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officers has been attending Selston Parish Council meetings to observe and provide general guidance and feedback to the Parish in relation to governance issues. The Deputy Monitoring Officer will provide a verbal update at the Committee meeting in relation to the conduct of the Parish Meetings attended, the Governance Review and the outstanding complaints. It should be noted that no new complaints relating to Parish Members have been received since June 2018.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Council will strive to ensure effective community leadership, through good governance, transparency, accountability and appropriate behaviours.

Legal:

There are no legal issues identified as a result of this monitoring report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The Authority incurs costs in investigating complaints of alleged Member misconduct and these charges are borne by the General Fund. The Council investigates complaints in house as far as possible to reduce costs. Where complaints need to be investigated externally these costs are expected to be contained within existing budgets. There have been no external costs incurred to date.
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
<p>The Council has recognised the following Corporate Risk: <i>Members' Ethical Framework – Failure to demonstrate high standards of behaviour (CR003)</i></p> <p>Significant resource to deal with implications of Code of Conduct Complaints.</p> <p>Potential for negative</p>	<p>The Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee approves an annual work programme to consider how it will ensure high standards of ethical behaviour.</p> <p>A review of the Members' Code of Conduct Complaints Process and Social Media Policy was carried out during 2017/2018 in accordance with the recommendations of the LGA Peer Challenge 2017 and the Council approved changes at the AGM in May 2018.</p>

<p>perception of the Council which impacts upon the Council's reputation.</p> <p>Potentially adverse impact upon the workings of the Council.</p> <p>New legislation does not provide "strong" sanctions for breaches to the Code which may make regulation of poor ethical behaviour difficult and leave complainants dissatisfied with outcomes.</p>	<p>Presentation of Quarterly Complaint Monitoring reports to Standards and Personnel Appeal Committee ensures ongoing monitoring of complaints to identify trends and areas for improvement.</p> <p>Council has approved the appointment of two Parish Co-optees to the Committee to encourage Parish involvement in the process in light of recently high levels of complaints in relation to one of the Parishes.</p>
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Human Resources:

There are no HR issues relating to this monitoring report.

Equalities:

There are no equalities issues relating to this monitoring report.

Other Implications:

None

Report Author and Contact Officer

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