

## AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16 November 2020

<b>Title:</b> Standards Complaints Update	
<b>Report of the Monitoring Officer</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Acting Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Law, Governance & HR	
<b>Summary:</b> <p>This report is to provide the Committee with an update of complaints against Members of the Council, their current status, outcome and actions taken.</p> <p>On 1 July 2012 the Assembly adopted, as required by the Localism Act 2011, a new local Code of Conduct and Complaint Procedure. As the Code approached a year in existence, this Committee reviewed the structure and drafting of it so as to make improvements in composition and simplify it where possible.</p> <p>The re-drafted Code was adopted by Assembly on 17th July 2013.</p> <p>In accordance with the Code, the Monitoring Officer conducts an initial assessment of complaints about Members of the Council against approved criteria and may consult with the Independent Person and try to resolve matters informally if possible or appropriate. If the complaint requires further investigation or referral to the Audit and Standards Committee there may still be a hearing of a complaint before its Sub-Committee.</p> <p>There are currently two complaints which are receiving consideration and a further complaint which was received in June 2020 was dismissed for want of evidence.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> <p>The Audit and Standards Committee is recommended to note the report.</p>	
<b>Reason(s)</b> <p>For continued good governance and to ensure that the Standards Committee is aware of complaints against Members of the Council.</p>	

## **1. Financial Implications**

2.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **2. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by Dr. Paul Field, Senior Governance Lawyer

2.1 It is a legal requirement that the Council promotes and maintains high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the authority. The Audit and Standards Committee contributes to this duty by receiving reports from the Monitoring Officer and assessing the operation and effectiveness of the Code of Conduct for Members. Additionally, the Committee advises on training of Members on matters relating to the Code as well as receiving referrals from the Monitoring Officer into allegations of misconduct in accordance with the authority's assessment criteria.

2.2 This report furthers those objectives by providing timely updates to the Standards Committee with regard to the operation of the Code of Conduct.

### **Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

- Council Constitution

### **List of appendices:**

Appendix A – Schedule of Complaints received.