

## AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

4 October 2023

<b>Title: Complaints Update</b>	
<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 Director:</b>	<b>Alison Stuart, Chief Legal Officer and Interim Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Fiona Taylor, Chief Executive</b>	
<b>Summary:</b>  This report provides the Committee with an update of complaints against Members of the Council, their status, outcome and actions taken.  On 1 July 2012 the Assembly adopted, as required by the Localism Act 2011, a new local Code of Conduct and Complaint Procedure. 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 in order to 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.	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> The Audit and Standards Committee is recommended to note the report.	
<b>Reason(s)</b> For continued good governance and to ensure that the Standards Committee is aware of complaints against Members of the Council.	

### 1. Options Appraisal

1.1 This report is for information only.

### 2. Consultation

2.1 This report is for information only.

### 3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

*Implications completed by: Dr Paul Field, Principal Standards & Governance Lawyer*

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 This report furthers those objectives by providing timely updates to the Audit and Standards Committee with regard to the operation of the Code of Conduct.

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

- The Council Constitution

**List of appendices: Appendix A – Schedule of Complaints received.**