



Audit and Standards Committee Report

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

Date: 26 July 2018

Subject: Update on Standards Complaints

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Summary:

The report provides a summary of the complaints considered under the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints so far in 2018.

Recommendations:

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

Background Papers:

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
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
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 6 December 2017. The Procedure can be found on the Council's website at: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/sheffield/home/your-city-council/council-meetings.html>
- 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. As the term of office of the existing Independent Persons is due to come to an end, a recruitment process took place to appoint two Independent Persons for a four year term, with interviews taking place on Tuesday 17 July 2018. Once the Independent Persons are appointed this will be confirmed at the Council meeting on 5 September 2018. A further detailed update will be provided at the meeting.
- 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
 - 4) Refer the matter to the Consideration Sub-Committee

2. Summary of Complaints

- 2.1 Of the 7 complaints received to date in 2018, the current position is:-
- No Breach / Take No Action – 3
 - No Breach / Take Other Action - 2
 - Informal Resolution – 0
 - Referred for Investigation – 0
 - Withdrawn - 1
 - To be assessed – 1
- 2.2 Of the 7 Complaints, 2 relate to City Councillors, 3 relate to Ecclesfield Parish Councillors, and 2 relate to Bradfield Parish Councillors.

3. Recommendation

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

Gillian Duckworth, Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal and Governance

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