

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Code of Conduct Complaints Update

Date: 15 December 2022

Author: Monitoring Officer

Purpose

To inform members of the Standards Committee of complaints received between 23 June 2022 and 15 December 2022.

Recommendation

THAT the report be noted.

1 Background

- 1.1 A summary of the number of complaints received since the implementation of the existing Standards regime (from 1 July 2012) is set out in the graph in Appendix 1. A summary of the complaints received since 2020/21 is set out in the table at Appendix 1. Since 23 June 2022, the Monitoring Officer has received 6 new code of conduct complaints.
- 1.2 Members of the Standards Committee will recall that at the time of the last committee meeting, 3 complaints were outstanding. Two of those complaints had been referred for investigation to external investigators. Both complaints have now concluded. The outcome of one of those complaints, determined by a Hearing Panel is detailed elsewhere on the agenda. A summary of the decision in the second complaint is shown at Appendix 2. The other complaint outstanding at the last Committee has also now been concluded and the summary of decision in that case is also attached at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 In relation to the six new complaints received since the 23 June 2022, five of those complaints have concluded and a summary of the decisions are attached at Appendix 2. At the time of writing, one complaint received since 23 June 2022 remains outstanding.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the report.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 Not to report code of complaints received by the Monitoring Officer however this would be contrary to the Council's arrangements for dealing with complaints.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 The costs associated with the external investigation into the two complaints referenced above were met from existing budgets.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 Code of Conduct complaints must be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Approved Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints.

6 Equalities Implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

7.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of the Code of Conduct complaints received since 1 July 2012.

8.2 Appendix 2 – Exempt Appendices – Summary of 7 complaints determined between 23 June 2022 and 15 December 2022.

9 Background papers

9.1 None identified.

10 Reasons for Recommendation

10.1 To keep Committee updated on Code of Conduct Complaints

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by the Chief Financial Officer

Date:

| **Drafted by the Monitoring Officer**

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