

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Code of Conduct Complaints Update

Date: 14 March 2024

Author: Monitoring Officer

Purpose

To inform members of the Standards Committee of complaints received between 7 December 2023 and 14 March 2024.

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 2021/22 is set out in the table at Appendix 1. Since 7 December 2023, the Monitoring Officer has received two new valid code of conduct complaints.
- 1.2 Members may recall that at the last Committee, one complaint remained outstanding. This complaint was referred for formal investigation and that investigation is still ongoing but is now in the final stages with a draft report currently being prepared.
- 1.3 In relation to the two new complaints received, these have been through the initial assessment stage and have now concluded. The outcome of those complaints is included in Appendix 2.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the report.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Not to report code of conduct 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 complaints are 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.

Appendix 2 – Exempt Appendices

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