

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Code of Conduct Complaints Update

Date: 18 July 2024

Author: Monitoring Officer

Purpose

To inform members of the Standards Committee of complaints received between 15 March 2024 and 18 July 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 15 March 2023, the Monitoring Officer has received four new valid code of conduct complaints. The first two of these were submitted prior to the 15 March Committee, but were not received or validated until after papers had been published for that Committee.
- 1.2 Members may recall that at the last Committee, one complaint remained outstanding. This complaint was referred for formal investigation and that investigation has now concluded, and the outcome of that complaint is included at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 In relation to the four new complaints received, one of these has now been withdrawn, an outcome was provided on one of the complaints on 28 March 2024 (Appendix 3) and the other two are ongoing.

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

Appendix 3 – Exempted 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