

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Code of Conduct Complaints Update

Date: 28 November 2024

Author: Monitoring Officer

Purpose

To inform members of the Standards Committee of complaints received between 18 July 2024 and 28 November 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 18 July 2024, the Monitoring Officer has received 7 new Code of Conduct complaints.
- 1.2 Members may recall that at the last Committee, there were two complaints outstanding. Both of these have now concluded and a summary of the outcome of those matters is attached at Appendix 3 – Exempt Appendix.
- 1.3 In relation to the 7 new complaints, 2 have concluded after formal investigation. The decision notice in relation to those 2 complaints is attached at Appendix 2. At the current time 5 complaints remain 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 any equality related matters are dealt with within individual complaint responses. The complaints process is accessible and complaints can be submitted in a number of formats.

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 – Decision notice complaints STD004302, STD004323

Appendix 3 – Exempt Appendices outcome of complaints

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