



Report to: Standards Committee, 7th July 2022

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Subject: COMPLAINTS MADE UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee note the report.

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise the Committee of any complaints made under the Members' Code of Conduct.

3. Background

3.1 The Council's Procedure adopted by the Council in March 2014 provides that a complaint will initially be considered by the Monitoring Officer and an Independent Person once the Monitoring Officer is in receipt of all relevant information to enable an initial assessment of the complaint to take place. After consulting the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer will decide either to take no action on the allegation, to resolve the complaint informally or to arrange an investigation.

4. Complaints

4.1 Since the last meeting of the Committee in November 2021, 3 complaints have been received.

4.2 Before making a decision in relation to each complaint, the Monitoring Officer consulted with one of the Independent Persons from the pool appointed to consider complaints.

4.3 Where an outcome is recorded as "no action", this is because the conduct complained of was either: (i) outside of the scope of the Code or (ii) was not considered to be a breach of the Code.

Complaints received in this period:

Complaint 1: informal action

Complaint 2: under assessment

Complaint 3: under assessment

4.4 One complaint from the previous period was referred to a Hearing Sub-Committee. The Hearings Sub-Committee meeting took place in private on 8 March 2022. The Sub-Committee considered a complaint made against a Councillor in respect of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct for Members.

The case was investigated by an Independent Investigator and the Sub-Committee were presented with a comprehensive report. Having considered all the circumstances, the Sub-Committee decided that no breach of the Code had occurred and no further action should be taken.

Ward(s): **All**
Contact Officer: **Sian Stroud, Corporate Director – Planning and Governance and Monitoring Officer. Tel: 01905 722019**
Background Papers: **None**