

<b>CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 9</b>
<b>5 FEBRUARY 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	

### CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>From:</b> Interim Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
1. To note the report on complaints received since the Committee's last meeting.	

#### 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This Report is submitted to the Constitution and Ethics Committee by the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer.

#### 2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The Constitution and Ethics Committee has the responsibility for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst members and co-opted members of the council including 'monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct'. This also includes parish councillors.
- 2.2 This report is for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.7.2.2.

Authority to oversee and approve the operation of the Council's functions relating to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct amongst members and co-opted members including:

- promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members;
- Assisting the members and co-opted members to observe the Code of Conduct;
- Advising the council on the adoption or revision of the Members Code of Conduct;
- Monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct;
- Advising, training or arranging to train members and co-opted members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct.

#### 3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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#### **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

##### **4.1 NEW COMPLAINTS**

There have been 4 new complaints received in relation to councillors since the last report:

Complaint 1 - This complaint concerned comments made by a member on social media. The complainant decided not to pursue the complaint.

Complaint 2 – This complaint relates to alleged actions from a member which were alleged to be in breach of the code of conduct.

Complaint 3 – This complaint concerns potential conflicts of interest in the actions of the subject member.

Complaint 4 – This complaint relates to alleged disclosure of information by the subject member.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The process for dealing with conduct complaints requires the Monitoring Officer to consult the Independent Person following an initial assessment and before any decisions are taken as to what if any further action is considered appropriate for example, the appointment of an investigator and, following receipt of the investigator's report, whether to refer the matter for a hearing.

#### **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 By reporting the complaints that have been made the Committee can more effectively monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct.

#### **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Regular reporting of both quantities and substance of complaints will help the Committee gain a better understanding of the effectiveness of current procedures and how well the Code is being observed across both the council and parish councils in its area. This will inform future decisions about what training may be necessary to ensure the requirements of the code are being met.

#### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 None

#### **9. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Financial Implications**

9.1 None

##### **Legal Implications**

9.2 Under the Localism Act 2011 the council may set its own procedures in relation to the handling of complaints.

##### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 None

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 The Localism Act 2011.

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None

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