

## **Joint Standards Assessments Sub-Committee**

**19 May 2022**

### **Public Report**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

### **Complaints received in respect of Parish / Town Councillors**

#### **Summary**

To consider five complaints in respect of the Code of Conduct received in respect of four Parish/Town Councillors to determine next steps.

#### **Recommendations**

The options available to the Sub-Committee are as follows:

1. Rule that the complaints in respect of the Councillors do not fall within the remit of the Code of Conduct. This will mean that no further action is taken and the matter is brought to a close.  
OR
2. Rule that the complaints should progress to an investigation. This will mean that the Monitoring Officer will appoint an Investigating Officer in accordance with the published procedure for handling Code of Conduct complaints. Members will be asked for a view as to who may conduct such an investigation, including whether the investigation should be conducted internally, or whether an external body is instructed.

#### **Background**

The Monitoring Officer has requested a meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Joint Standards Committee to determine if the complaints received should be investigated.

There are five complaints in total relating to four councillors containing allegations that the councillors in question have allegedly acted with disrespect and some have alleged acted in a bullying and harassing manner towards other.

## **Options**

The Sub-Committee must now consider the following options:

1. The five complaints in respect of the four Councillors do not fall within the remit of the Code of Conduct. This will mean that no further action is taken and the matter is brought to a close.  
OR
2. The complaints should progress to an investigation. This will mean that the Monitoring Officer will appoint an Investigating Officer in accordance with the published procedure for handling Code of Conduct complaints. Members will be asked for a view as to who may conduct such an investigation, including whether the investigation should be conducted internally, or whether an external body is instructed.

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

Not applicable to this report.

### **Human Resources (HR)**

Not applicable to this report.

### **Equalities**

The Councillors, who are the subject matter of the complaints, will be offered the support of an Independent Person as part of this process.

### **Legal**

The Monitoring Officer is required to consider all formal complaints received in respect of the Code of Conduct in line with the published procedure for handling Code of Conduct complaints.

## **Crime and Disorder, Information Technology (IT) and Property**

Not applicable to this report.

### **Other**

Not applicable to this report.

### **Contact Details**

**Author and Chief Officer  
Responsible for the report:**

**Janie Berry  
Director of Governance &  
Monitoring Officer**

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**Report**  **Date** 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
**Approved**

**Wards Affected: Haxby & Wigginton ward**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### **Background Papers:**

- City of York Council Code of Conduct and Procedure for Handling of Complaints
- City of York Council Constitution