

Joint Standards Committee

5th July 2017

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Monitoring Report on Complaints Received

Summary

1. This report updates the Committee on recent standard complaints.
2. Since the Committee last met in April two new complaints have been received - one against a City Councillor and one against a Parish Councillor. Both were brought by members of the public.
3. The complaint against the City Councillor has not been taken forward. There were a number of elements to this complaint which was brought separately by three members of the public. Some of the issues raised did not relate to the Councillor acting in that capacity.
4. A complaint that the Member had a prejudicial interest in a matter where he had declared only a personal interest was not taken forward. The Code of Conduct currently limits prejudicial interest to situations where the Member (or one of the bodies in which they have a registered interest) has either a financial interest in the business or it relates to a license, approval or consent etc. in respect of them. Neither situation applied in this case. As part of the forthcoming review of the code of conduct Members may wish to consider whether the definition of “prejudicial interest” is sufficiently broad.
5. The Parish Councillor complaint is still under consideration at the time of writing. The Monitoring Officer has met with the complainant in order to identify which aspects of the complaint, if any, related to behaviour which might be regarded as being within the official capacity of the Councillor.

Recommendations

6. Members are recommended to:

1) Note the report

Reason: To ensure that the Committee is aware of current levels of activity and that the standards complaints system is used for its primary purpose.

Contact Details

Author:

Andrew Docherty
Monitoring Officer
Customer and Corporate
Services
Tel No. 01904 551004

Report
Approved

Date 23/0617

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None