

Conduct Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 13 August 2013

Electoral Division affected: None

Summary of Code of Conduct Complaints dealt with by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The new arrangements for handling complaints against County Councillors under the Code of Conduct include provision for initial consideration by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer. The procedure allows for the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer to deal with complaints that are outside the scope of the code; which are frivolous, vexatious or without merit, or which could be dealt with informally. It was agreed by Full Council that any complaints dealt with in this way would be reported on an annual basis to the Conduct Committee.

Recommendation

That the committee note the summary of complaints dealt with by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer in the period July 2012 – July 2013

Background and Advice

In July 2012, a new Code of Conduct for County Councillors came into effect. Alongside the new code, the Council agreed new arrangements for handling complaints made against members under the code. These arrangements included provision for an initial consideration by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer in order to identify and deal with complaints that were outside the scope of the code; which were frivolous, vexatious or without merit, or which could be dealt with informally. It was agreed that a report of any complaints dealt with by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer in the year would be reported to the Conduct Committee.

In the year up to the end of July 2013, the council has received eight complaints which have been dealt with by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer.

The following table briefly summarises the eight complaints

No	Date	Complaint	Monitoring Officer Response
1	Jul 12	Failure to treat with respect	No Breach - No further action
2	Jan 13	Use of resources for political purposes	No Breach - No further Action
3	Jan 13	Failure to treat with respect	No Breach - No further Action
4	Feb 13	Misuse of resources	No Breach - No further action
5	Feb 13	Failure to treat with respect Failure to promote high standards Failure to be as open as possible in decisions and actions	No Breach - No further action
6	Mar 13	Failure to treat with respect Failure to behave in accordance with policies, protocols & procedures	Informal Resolution - apology from Councillor
7	Apr 13	Failure to treat with respect	Informal Resolution - apology from Councillor
8	May 13	Failure to treat with respect	No Breach – No further action

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The County Council is required by the Localism Act 2011 to operate a procedure for handling complaints against members under the Code of Conduct.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A