

Report sponsor: Director of Corporate Governance, Property and Procurement and Monitoring Officer

Report author: Democratic Services Officer

Volume and Outcomes of Councillor Complaints 2023/24

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on the volume and outcomes of Councillor complaints dealt with in the 2023/24 municipal year.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the volume and outcome of Councillor complaints in 2023/24 as outlined in the report.

Reason

- 3.1 To update the Standards Committee on the volume and outcomes of councillor complaints dealt with in the 2023/24 municipal year.

Supporting information

- 4.1 16 complaints have been received in the 2023/24 municipal year. 10 have been dismissed and six are live.
- 4.2 It is important to note that when a complaint is dismissed, this includes circumstances by which a subject member has taken steps to resolve a complaint by way of an informal resolution to the satisfaction of the Monitoring Officer. This could include a written apology or some other form of corrective action by the councillor concerned.
- 4.3 In accordance with the procedures for the assessment and review of allegations of breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, five out of the 10 dismissed complaints have been dismissed following an apology being issued by the subject member, either directly to the complainant or to the Monitoring Officer.
- 4.4 The Councillors' Code of Conduct and the Procedures for the assessment and review of allegations of breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct are attached at Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 None.

Other options

6.1 To take no action.

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 None.

Legal implications

8.1 Under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to have a Code of Conduct for its Councillors and to establish and maintain arrangements for dealing with complaints about their conduct.

Climate implications

9.1 None.

Socio-Economic Implications

10.1 None.

Other significant implications

11.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Alex Hough – Head of Democracy	11/03/2024
Background papers: List of appendices:	None Appendix 1 - Councillors' Code of Conduct Appendix 2 - Procedures for the assessment and review of allegations of breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct	