

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

24 January 2023

Minute Extract

28/22 Volume and Outcomes of Councillor Complaints 2022/23

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Volume and Outcomes of Councillor Complaints 2022/23.

The report provided the Committee with an update on the volume and outcomes of Councillor complaints dealt with in the 2022/23 municipal year.

It was reported that four complaints were carried over from the 2021/22 municipal year. It was also reported that two of those complaints concerned the same Councillor and were broadly related, that both were being investigated and that the Monitoring Officer was awaiting the outcome of those investigations. Members noted that one complaint had been investigated and the Monitoring Officer was seeking an informal resolution and that the matter was now very close to conclusion. It was also noted that in relation to the fourth complaint, the Monitoring Officer had consulted with the Independent Person Advisory Panel and was considering the next steps.

It was reported that six complaints had been received in the 2022/23 municipal year and that four of those had been dismissed and two were still live.

The Monitoring Officer spoke about a small number complaints that it was proving difficult to resolve in accordance with the current complaints procedures and proposed that an additional reason for dismissal be added at paragraph 16 of those procedures. Members noted that this additional reason for dismissal broadly related to circumstances where there was a lack of evidence. The proposed wording was read out to the Committee. There was considerable discussion in relation to the exact wording of that reason for dismissal. Members eventually agreed that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend the proposed wording and that it then be circulated to the Committee for comment, before proceeding to Council for approval.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the volume and outcome of Councillor complaints as outlined in the report; and**
- 2. to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend the proposed wording of the additional reason for dismissal at paragraph 16 of the Procedures for the Assessment and Review of Allegations of Breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and that it then be circulated to the Committee for comment, before proceeding to Council for approval.**

MINUTES END