

## MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

### Executive Summary

This report advises the Committee of complaints, submitted under the Members' Code of Conduct, received by the Monitoring Officer between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020.

### Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

**RESOLVE That** the report detailing the complaints, submitted under the Members' Code of Conduct, received by the Monitoring Officer between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020 be noted.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.
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**Background Papers:** None.

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### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011, adopted by the Council, provide for the Monitoring Officer to submit an annual report to the Standards and Audit Committee with appropriate details of complaints received.
- 1.2 This report details complaints received by the Monitoring Officer between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020.

### 2.0 Complaints Received

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer received five complaints between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020. One of these complaints is still to be determined, so is not referred to in this report.
- 2.2 On 19 October 2019, Councillor 1 complained that Councillor 2 had failed to register interests as required by law and the Members' Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer concluded that (i) in one case, there was no interest to declare and (ii) in the other case, registration of the interest should have been made by the Monitoring Officer, not Councillor 2. The complaint did not merit formal investigation, so no further action was taken in respect of it.
- 2.3 On 3 March 2020, a firm of solicitors complained that Councillor 3 had (i) made a biased statement to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (ii) had not conducted him/herself in accordance with the Council's rules and regulations and (iii) might have had an interest in the matter under consideration. The Monitoring Officer concluded that (i) Councillor 3 had acted as he would expect a councillor to act and (ii) the Councillor did not have an interest in the matter. The complaint did not merit formal investigation, so no further action was taken in respect of it.
- 2.4 On 24 June 2020, a member of the public complained that Councillor 4 made unacceptable comments at a meeting of the Planning Committee. The Monitoring Officer considered that there was a reasonable basis on which the Councillor could make the comments complained of. The complaint did not merit formal investigation, so no further action was taken in respect of it.
- 2.5 On 27 July 2020, a member of the public complained that Councillor 5 had neither replied to, nor acknowledged receipt of, a letter that he had emailed to the Councillor. The Monitoring Officer concluded that the Councillor had not behaved improperly in not replying to the letter, as only eighteen days had lapsed between the date of the letter and the submission of the complaint. The complaint did not merit formal investigation, so no further action was taken in respect of it.

### 3.0 Implications

#### Financial

- 3.1 None.

#### Human Resource/Training and Development

- 3.2 None.

#### Community Safety

- 3.3 None.

Risk Management

3.4 None.

Sustainability

3.5 None.

Equalities

3.6 None.

Safeguarding

3.7 None.

REPORT ENDS