

ITEM NO.5

REPORT TO THE STANDARDS MEETING OF 22 MARCH 2011

Status: For Information
Title: Update on Complaints
Originator: Verina Wenham, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Where from: Management Board
Where to next:

1 Purpose Report

1.1 To update the Committee on the current position regarding complaints received in respect of alleged breaches of the Members Code of Conduct.

2 Recommendations:

2.1 **That the Standards Committee note the current position regarding complaints.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 To update the Committee on the current position regarding complaints received.

4 Impact on Communities

4.1 The Standards Committee has a central role in supporting and improving ethical conduct and by ensuring that complaints are dealt with appropriately will increase confidence in local democracy by members of the public.

5 Key Facts

5.1 Following the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 and the coming into effect of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008, the Standards Committees now deal with complaints of alleged breaches of the Members Code of Conduct.

5.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the current position regarding complaints received to date. . At its meeting on 25th May the Committee requested that the case summary provide more detail of the progress of the complaints. In consultation with the Chairman a revised

spreadsheet setting out the current position has been produced and is attached as Appendix A

6 Legal Issues

6.1 As set out in the report.

7 Resource Issues

7.1 Complaints that are referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation can be outsourced at the discretion of the Monitoring Officer. A budget for this has been allocated.

8 Equality Implications

8.1 There are none as far as this report is concerned.

9 Impact on the Organisation

9.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

11 Consultation

11.1 None as far as this report is concerned.

12 Options Considered

12.1 To note the current position.

13 Background Papers

13.1 None.

Previous report(s): 25th May 2010

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: Y/N

Ward Members Notified: Y/N