

Date: 3 December 2018

Dear Councillor,

Standards Committee

A Meeting of the **Standards Committee** will be held in the **Council Chamber**, on **Tuesday, 11 December 2018 at 18:00**. You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Executive

To:- **Conservative Group**
Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors
Mrs Hall and Stanton

Labour Group
Councillors Dunn and Dr Pearson

Independent Persons
Mr P Purnell and Mr P Smith

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

- 1** Apologies.
- 2** To receive the Open Minutes of the following Meeting:

Standards Committee 9th November 2017 Open Minutes **3 - 4**
- 3** To note any declarations of interest arising from any items on the Agenda
- 4** To receive any questions by members of the public pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.10.
- 5** To receive any questions by Members of the Council pursuant to Council procedure Rule No. 11.
- 6** SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS **5 - 14**

Exclusion of the Public and Press:

- 7** The Chairman may therefore move:-
That in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.
- 8** To receive any Exempt questions by Members of the Council pursuant to Council procedure Rule No. 11.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9th November 2017

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs Hall and Stanton (Conservative Group)

Labour Group

Councillor Dunn

Independent Persons

Mr P Purnell

SC/1 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Dr Pearson (Labour Group) and Mr P Smith.

SC/2 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th December 2015 were noted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

SC/3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

SC/4 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

SC/5 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO SUB-COMMITTEE

SC/6 **SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS**

The Committee received the Report summarising the formal complaints investigated by the Monitoring Officer and the action taken in each case.

Councillor Atkin whilst referring to queries he had received, enquired whether Parish Liaison meetings could be used as a platform to deliver a presentation to refresh individuals on the complaints procedure.

The Monitoring Officer advised that Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) had conducted training on the subject and any new members appointed to parish councils since the training receive a copy of the Council's Code of Conduct which outlines the complaints procedure.

Members of the Committee discussed that in order to further enhance knowledge of complaint-handling and maintenance of standards, an item could be added to the agenda of the next Parish Liaison meeting.

Councillor Dunn referenced complaint LAC/33 – LAC/35 in Appendix 1 of the report and sought further clarification on the outcome. The Monitoring Officer explained that the complaints related to situations where the criteria of the Code of Conduct did not apply. The Officer further clarified that matters resolved without investigation relate to instances where it is not in the public interest to investigate further, but appropriate training is offered.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 Members noted the summary of complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Persons.

1.2 Members requested the Members' Code Of Conduct complaints procedure be itemised at a future Parish Liaison meeting.

The Meeting terminated at 6.15pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	11th DECEMBER 2018	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	MONITORING OFFICER	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ARDIP KAUR - 595715 ardip.kaur@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the summary of complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Persons be noted.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To consider a summary of the complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Persons under the Standards Regime as implemented by the Localism Act 2011.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Localism Act 2011 made fundamental changes to the system of regulation of Standards of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members. The date for implementation of these changes was confirmed as 1st July 2012.

4.2 The report at Annexe A summarises the complaints made and actions taken by the Monitoring Officer. The Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to prepare reports to the Standards Committee to advise of the investigations carried out and decisions made on complaints against District and Parish Councillors.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None arising from this report.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 It is a requirement for the Monitoring Officer to report to the Standards Committee with a summary of the investigations undertaken.

7.0 Community Implications

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7.1 The Council's Standards Committee plays a vital role in promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct by Councillors of South Derbyshire District Council and Parishes in its area.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 None.

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE 11TH DECEMBER 2018**SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS**

Ref.	Category of Complainant	Subject Member(s)	Summary of Complaint	Outcome
LAC/37	Other	District Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillor's alleged conduct towards employees of the complainant organisation.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.
LAC/38	Member of the public	District Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillor's alleged conduct with regards to a complaint received by the Council. The complaint also made reference to the Councillor's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and an alleged omission of information.	The first aspect of the complaint the Monitoring Officer concluded did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct The second aspect of the complaint was dealt with by words of advice and an update of information on the Councillor's Register of DPI's.

LAC/39	Member of the public	District Councillors (3)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at the Council's Planning Committee.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.
LAC/40	Member of the public	District Councillors (3)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at the Council's Planning Committee.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.
LAC/41	Member of the public	District Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at the Council's Planning Committee.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.
LAC/42	Member of the public	District Councillors (4)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at the Council's Planning Committee.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.
LAC/43	Member of the public	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillor's alleged conduct at two Parish Council meetings.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.

LAC/44	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillor's alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
LAC/45	Member of the public	District Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillor's alleged lack of response to written correspondence and impartiality in the matter.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.
LAC/46	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at two Parish Council meetings.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
LAC/47	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.

LAC/48	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at two Parish Council meetings.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
LAC/49	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at two Parish Council meetings.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
LAC/50	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at two Parish Council meetings.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
LAC/51	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (3)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaints should not be investigated because they were tit for tat complaints.
LAC/52	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (3)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaints should not be investigated because they were tit for tat complaints.

LAC/53	Member of the public	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillor's alleged conduct and information allegedly withheld from the Councillor's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's).	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint had been resolved without the need for an investigation. The Councillor's Register of DPI's had been updated as necessary.
LAC/55	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (3)	The complaint related to the Councillors' alleged conduct and in particular correspondence sent.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaints should not be investigated because they were tit for tat complaints.
LAC/56	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct and in particular correspondence sent.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaints should not be investigated because they were tit for tat complaints.

LAC/57	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaints should not be investigated because they were tit for tat complaints.
LAC/58	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct and in particular correspondence sent.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
LAC/59	Member of the public	Parish Councillors (2)	The complaint related to the Councillors alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council.	The Monitoring Officer concluded one aspect of the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation and the other did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.

LAC/60	Member of the public	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to a request to view documents held by the Parish Council.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Members Code of Conduct.
LAC/61	Member of the public	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillor's alleged conduct at two Parish Council meetings.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint was not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
LAC/62	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillors' alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council, as well as a Parish Council meeting.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint could be resolved without the need for an investigation and by way of an apology.
LAC/63	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillors' alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council, as well as a Parish Council meeting.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint could be resolved without the need for an investigation and by way of an apology.
LAC/64	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillors' alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council, as well as a Parish Council meeting.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint could be resolved without the need for an investigation and by way of an apology.

LAC/65	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillors' alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council, as well as a Parish Council meeting.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint could be resolved without the need for an investigation and by way of an apology.
LAC/66	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillors' alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council, as well as a Parish Council meeting.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint could be resolved without the need for an investigation and by way of an apology.
LAC/67	An Elected or co-opted Member of an Authority	Parish Councillor	The complaint related to the Councillors' alleged conduct at a meeting associated with the Parish Council, as well as a Parish Council meeting.	The Monitoring Officer concluded the complaint could be resolved without the need for an investigation and by way of an apology.