

**REPORT TO:** Civic Affairs Committee

8 December 2022

**LEAD OFFICER:** Monitoring Officer

## Update on Code of Conduct Complaints

### Executive Summary

1. To update the Civic Affairs Committee on complaint cases regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.

### Recommendations

2. That the Civic Affairs Committee **note** the progress of any outstanding complaints and the conclusion of cases resolved since the last meeting.

### Details

3. Progress since the last meeting in relation to Code of Conduct complaints is set out in the below table:

<b>Matter Number</b>	<b>District/Parish Council</b>	<b>Allegation/complaint</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
21518	Cambourne Town Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Town Councillor that their actions were promoting hate through social media and therefore breached the Code of Conduct.	<p>The Investigator determined that all of the posts which are the subject of the complaint were published prior to the Town Councillor's election and therefore was not subject to the Code. It follows that none of the posts which are the subject of the complaint constituted a breach of the Code</p> <p>The Investigating Officer's report has been reviewed and I have also consulted with the Independent Person in line with the</p>

			requirements of the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure. We are satisfied that the report is sufficient and that no further action is required.
21525	Waterbeach Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against three members of the Parish Council (one now former) that their actions breached the Code of Conduct.	After consultation with the Independent Person, it was determined that the complaint did not merit a formal investigation as the Parish Councillors (one former) have not breached the Code.
21833	Cambourne Town Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Parish Councillor that their actions were promoting " <i>discrimination on religious and ethnical grounds</i> " and therefore breached the Code of Conduct.	The complainant wanted to take their complaint forward on a confidential basis. Following consultation with both the Independent and Deputy Independent Persons, we were all in agreement that there was not a clear public interest in investigating the complaint whilst allowing them to remain confidential.
21840	Waterbeach Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Parish Councillor that they stated during a parish council meeting that they would not abide by the standing orders and therefore breached the Code of Conduct.	After consultation with the Deputy Independent Person, it was determined that the complaint did not merit a formal investigation as there had not been a breach of the Code.
21842	Waterbeach Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Parish Councillor that they have been subject to unreasonable and bullying behaviour by the Parish Councillor and therefore the Code of Conduct had been breached.	A meeting was held between the Monitoring Officer, Complainant and the Councillor which resulted in the matter being resolved informally.
22213	Waterbeach Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Parish Councillor that	Matter ongoing

		their actions caused bullying and breached the Nolan principles, therefore the Code of Conduct had been breached.	
22214	Waterbeach Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Parish Councillor that their actions caused bullying and intimidation and breached various other parts of the Code of Conduct.	Matter ongoing
22215	Waterbeach Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Parish Councillor that their actions failed to treat them with respect, were bullying and brought the Parish Council into disrepute therefore breaching the Code of Conduct.	Matter ongoing
22217	SCDC	Allegations from the complainant against a District Councillor that posts to several social media profiles and group pages breached of the code of conduct.	After consultation with the Deputy Independent Person, it was determined that the complaint did not merit a formal investigation as there had not been a breach of the Code.

## Implications

- In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, there are no significant implications.

## Background Papers

Constitution – Code of Conduct

Ethical Handbook - Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure

## Report Author:

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