

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

3 March 2020

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Leader

LEAD OFFICER: Monitoring Officer

Update on Code of Conduct Complaints

Executive Summary

1. To update the Civic Affairs Committee on complaints 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:

Matter Number	District/Parish Council	Allegation/complaint	Outcome
017512	Thriplow Parish Council	<p>Allegations from the complainant against two members of the Parish Council that their actions breached the following parts of the code;</p> <p>“You must</p> <p>3.1 provide leadership to the authority and communities within its area, by personal example</p> <p>3.2 respect others and not bully or threaten or attempt to bully or threaten any person</p>	Complaint withdrawn.

		<p>3.4 not conduct yourself in a manner which is likely to bring the Authority into disrepute</p> <p>3.7 exercise your own independent judgement, taking decisions for good and substantial reasons by –</p> <p>3.7.1 attaching appropriate weight to all relevant considerations including, where appropriate, public opinion and the views of political groups</p> <p>3.7.2 paying due regard to the advice of Officers, and in particular to the advice of the statutory officers, namely the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer</p>	
018021	Haslingfield Parish Council	<p>Allegations from the complainant against a member of the Parish Council that their actions breached the following parts of the code;</p> <p>“You must –</p> <p>3.2 respect others and not bully or threaten or attempt to bully or threaten any person</p> <p>3.7 exercise your own independent judgement, taking decisions for good and substantial reasons by –</p> <p>3.7.3 stating the reasons for your decisions where</p>	New Complaint – matter ongoing

		<p>those reasons are not otherwise apparent</p> <p>3.8 do nothing that causes the Authority to act unlawfully.”</p>	
018075	Coton Parish Council	<p>Allegations from the complainant against two members of the Parish Council. One member is alleged to have breached the following parts of the code;</p> <p>“You must</p> <p>3.1 provide leadership to the authority and the community within its area, by personal example</p> <p>3.2 respect others</p> <p>3.3 respect the confidentiality of information which you receive as a Member by–</p> <p>3.3.1 not disclosing confidential information to third parties unless required by law to do so or where there is a clear and over-riding public interest in doing so;</p> <p>3.4 not conduct yourself in a manner which is likely to bring the Authority into disrepute”</p> <p>The second member is alleged to have breached the following parts of the code;</p> <p>“You must</p> <p>3.1 provide leadership to the authority and the</p>	New Complaint – matter ongoing

		<p>community within its area, by personal example</p> <p>3.2 respect others and not bully or threaten or attempt to bully or threaten any person</p> <p>3.4 not conduct yourself in a manner which is likely to bring the Authority into disrepute”</p> <p>It is also alleged that both members breached the Nolan Principles relating to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrity 2. accountability 3. openness 4. honesty 5. leadership 	
018076	Linton Parish Council	<p>Allegations from the complainant against two members of the Parish Council that their actions breached the following parts of the code;</p> <p>“You must</p> <p>3.4 not conduct yourself in a manner which is likely to bring the Authority into disrepute</p> <p>&</p> <p>Appendix 2 Paragraph 2</p> <p>Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.</p> <p>&</p> <p>Appendix 2 Paragraph 2</p>	New Complaint – matter ongoing

		Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.”	
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Implications

4. 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/Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure

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