

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

7 December 2021

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
020114	SCDC	<p>This complaint relates to an earlier complaint considered under reference number 019778 and are allegations from the complainant that the member breached the following parts of the code;</p> <p>3.2 respect others and not bully or threaten or attempt to bully or threaten any person</p> <p>3.3 respect the confidentiality of information which you receive as a member by:</p>	<p>After consulting with the Independent Person, we remain of the view that there are no new material issues or evidence raised to support the second complaint that has changed our opinion such that it now merits a formal investigation.</p>

		<p>(a) not disclosing confidential information to third parties unless required by law to do so or where there is a clear and overriding 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>3.7 exercise your own independent judgement, taking decisions for good and substantial reasons by –</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>	
020115	Fowlmere Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against 6 Parish Councillors that their actions breached the Nolan principles bringing the Parish Council into disrepute.	After consultation with the Independent Person, it was determined that the complaint does not merit a formal investigation as the Parish Councillors have not breached the Code.
020443	Stapleford Parish Council	Allegations from the complainant against a Parish Councillor that their actions breached the Code of Conduct.	The matter was addressed by informal resolution. The Monitoring Officer conveyed an apology to the complainant in a form of words that was given by the Parish Councillor.

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

Ethical Handbook - Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure

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