

**REPORT TO:** Civic Affairs Committee

14 March 2024

**LEAD OFFICER:** Monitoring Officer

# Update on Code of Conduct Complaints & Annual Summary

## 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:

District/Parish Council/ref	Allegation/complaint	Outcome
SCDC (JM03)	Allegations from 2 complainants against a Councillor that their social media postings breached the code of conduct.	The Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Independent Person, determined that the complaint did not merit a formal investigation as there had not been a breach of the Code.
Fowlmere PC (JM05)	Allegations from 2 complainants against a Councillor concerning their behaviour breached the relevant code of conduct.	The Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Independent Person, determined that the complaint did not merit a formal investigation as there had not been a breach of the Code.
Cambourne TC (JM04)	Allegations from a complainant against Councillors concerning their behaviour	The Monitoring Officer is awaiting the Independent Person's assessment to the complaints prior to determining whether the matter merits formal investigation.

	breached the relevant code of conduct.	
Madingley PC (JM07)	Allegations from a complainant against a Councillor that their behaviour breached the relevant code of conduct.	After discussions with the Complainant and the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer determined to dismiss the complaint.
Fowlmere PC (JM06)	Allegations from a complainant against a Councillor that their behaviour breached the relevant code of conduct.	The Monitoring Officer is awaiting the Councillor's response to the complaint prior to consulting with the Independent Person.
Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth (JM08)	Allegations from a complainant against Councillors that their behaviour breached the relevant code of conduct.	The Monitoring Officer is awaiting the Councillor's response to the complaint prior to consulting with the Independent Person.

## Annual Summary 2023-2024

### 2023-2024 Summary

4. Total number of Standards Complaints: 12

- SCDC – 4;
- Parish Councils – 8;

How many formally investigated:

- SCDC – 0;
- Parish; - 0;

How many Summary Resolutions:

- SCDC – 0;
- Parish – 0;

How many Standards Hearings:

- SCDC – 0;
- Parish Council – 0.

Trends in subject matter of complaints – social media and communications, plus conduct at Parish Council meetings.

### Implications

5. 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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