

Report to: Standards Committee



Date of Meeting 11 April 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Code of Conduct Complaint Update

Report summary:

To update the Standards Committee in relation to the Code of Conduct complaints received and/or progress made, since the last meeting in November 2023. It also provides an updated complaint form for member consideration.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

- (1) That the Standards Committee note the update and provide any feedback on the updated reporting template and Code of Conduct complaint form.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that the Committee are receiving regular updates and have sufficient oversight of Code of Conduct complaints.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

The Code of Conduct complaints procedures apply equally to everyone. The process also ensures that anyone with a disability has the ability to make a complaint with the assistance of Council officers where needed

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Medium Risk; Poor member behaviour brings reputational damage. It is essential that there is a robust process in place for monitoring Code of Conduct complaints by the Committee.

Links to background information None

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
 - A greener East Devon
 - A resilient economy
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Report in full

1. The Committee receive regular updates on Code of Conduct complaints received by the Council in relation to District, Town and Parish Councillors.
 2. At the Standards Committee meeting in November 2023, the Committee discussed the template for reporting on Code of Conduct complaints moving forward. This report therefore provides an update on complaints in two parts. Appendix A updates on complaints made prior to the change in template. Appendix B sets out a new template, taking into account members comments at the last meeting, and includes details of complaints made since November 2023. It also provides a couple of charts giving a breakdown on the number of complaints between District/Parish and by type. Over time, we hope to increase the number of charts so that trends can be monitored.
 3. Members are invited to consider the updates. In terms of the updated template, Members are also asked to provide feedback on the new template and whether it meets the needs of the Committee.
 4. In terms of lessons learnt from recent complaints, it is clear that some of the delays in the process are due to complainants not providing all of the information needed to enable us to progress the complaint. In the circumstances, a review of the current Code of Conduct complaint form has been carried out and an updated draft is attached at Appendix C to this report. Members are invited to consider the updated form and provide feedback.
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Financial implications:

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Legal implications:

There are no significant legal implications directly arising from this report