



Northumberland

County Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16 JULY 2020

Code of Conduct Complaints – Progress Report

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Executive Member: Councillor Nick Oliver, Corporate Services & Cabinet Secretary

Purpose of report

The report is to inform Members of the progress with complaints received by the authority under the new arrangements adopted by the authority for dealing with standards allegations under the Localism Act 2011.

Recommendations

To note the report

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone” priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

Key issues

1. The Council adopted new arrangements for determination of complaints of breach of Code of Conduct by members on the 1st July 2012
2. The authority continues to have responsibility for complaints relating to Parish and Town Councillors in Northumberland.
3. The progress and status of each complaint received by the authority from 1st April 2019, thus far, is shown in the attached table.

Background

1. Details of complaints received, together with the current status of each, will follow.

2. Two, linked complaints, from the previous year are currently still the subject of an ongoing investigation which is understood to be very close to a conclusion. The Committee will be advised of the outcome in due course.

Implications

Policy	The local determination of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct is a statutory requirement
Finance and value for money	There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The level of complaints received continues to be maintained at a relatively high level which does have an impact on capacity
Legal	None significant
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	The Code of Conduct supports the Council's policies on equalities in service delivery
Risk Assessment	Level 1 The procedures in relation to the local assessment of member conduct complaints are designed to support fair and efficient handling of those complaints by the Council with the aim of avoiding challenge or dissatisfaction with that process.
Crime & Disorder	The locally based system of assessment, investigation and determination of complaints supports compliance with the Code of Conduct which in turn supports the Council's general aims in relation to crime and disorder.
Customer Consideration	The Code of Conduct is consistent with and reinforces the Council's approach to customer relations.
Carbon reduction	None
Health and Wellbeing	N/A
Wards	All

Background papers

Localism Act 2011

Northumberland County Council Arrangements for dealing with standards allegations under the Localism Act 2011

Report sign off

	Initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Service Director Finance & Interim S151 Officer	CH
Relevant Executive Director	KA
Chief Executive	DL
Portfolio Holder(s)	NO

Author and Contact Details

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