

Standards Committee

Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints of Councillor Misconduct

10 October 2012

Report of Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to endorse, or amend as it sees fit, the arrangements for dealing with complaints of Councillor misconduct introduced with effect from 1 July 2012 by the Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer under the delegated authority given by full Council in May 2012.

This report is public.

Recommendations

The Standards Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the arrangements for complaints of Councillor misconduct at Appendix 1, or to amend them as it sees fit.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 On 16 May 2012 (Minute 14 refers) full Council resolved to delegate authority to the Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer to take the necessary steps to establish the required arrangements (including a Complaints Procedure and a Hearing Procedure) for dealing with complaints of Councillor misconduct pending formal consideration by this Committee in due course. This report seeks the approval of this Committee pursuant to that full Council resolution.

Background Information

- 2.1 Further to the delegated authority given to the Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer by full Council on 16 May 2012 the arrangements for dealing with complaints of councillor misconduct at Appendix 1 were introduced. In addition, a formal complaints form was

created so as to ensure that all complaints were put forward in a consistent way and contained the necessary information required to enable the complaint to be fully understood.

- 2.2 The Committee is requested to consider the appended documents and formally to ensure them for continuing use with future complaints of Councillor misconduct.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 The Council is legally required to introduce arrangements for dealing with complaints of Councillor misconduct and the Committee accordingly needs to endorse the appended documentation, or amend as it sees fit.
- 3.2 The relevant options for the committee are:

- Option One** To accept the recommendation and to endorse the documentation at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- Option Two** To amend the documentation at Appendix 1 and/or Appendix 2 as the Committee sees fit.

Consultations

None

Implications

Financial: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, having a consistent approach to dealing with complaints of Member misconduct ensures that any complaints received are dealt with in an efficient and cost effective way.

Comments checked by Karen Curtin, Head of Finance and Procurement,
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Legal: The relevant legal implications are dealt with in the report.

Comments checked by Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance,
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Risk Management: There is a risk of non-compliance with the Council's legal obligations if complaints are dealt with in an inconsistent way. The adoption of a consistent set of arrangements mitigates this risk.

Comments checked by Gavin Halligan-Davies, Interim Corporate Performance Manager, gavin.halligan-davies@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints of Councillor Misconduct
Appendix 2	Standards Complaint Form
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