

This report is public	
Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints of Alleged Breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct	
Committee	Standards Committee
Date of Committee	31 January 2024
Report of	Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report

To enable the Committee to note the arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Councillors' Code of under delegated authority.

1. Recommendations

The Standards Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Councillors Code of Conduct at Appendix 1.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Under the Constitution the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to establish arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Councillors Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 The terms of reference of the Standards Committee contain the following responsibility.
 - The approval and administration of arrangements under which allegations of breach of the code of conduct for members and co-opted members can be investigated and decisions on such allegations can be made.
- 2.3 It is good practice to periodically review the arrangements for Code of Conduct matters to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. Accordingly, The Monitoring Officer has reviewed the arrangements. This report seeks for the Committee to note the report and the updated arrangements as shown in Appendix 1.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	Rachel Ainsworth 19/01/2024 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.			
Legal	Shiraz Sheikh, Monitoring Officer/Assistant Director of Law & Governance, 15/01/2024 The Council has a duty under section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 to ensure that arrangements are in place under which allegations relating to the Code of Conduct can be investigated and decisions can be made. The Procedure for Member Code of Conduct Complaints ensures that this is complied with.			
Risk Management	Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 16/01/2024 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report.			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact		x		Not applicable
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		Not applicable
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		Not applicable
Climate & Environmental Impact		x		Not applicable
ICT & Digital Impact		x		Not applicable
Data Impact		x		Not applicable
Procurement & subsidy		x		Not applicable
Council Priorities	Not applicable			
Human Resources	Not applicable			
Property	Not applicable			
Consultation & Engagement	Constitution review working group			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 Under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council must have in place “arrangements” under which allegations that a member or co-opted member of the Council or of a parish council within the authority’s area, or of a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council, has failed to comply with that Council's Code of Conduct can be investigated and decisions made on such allegations.

4. Details

- 4.2 Under the Constitution the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to establish arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Councillors Code of Conduct.
- 4.3 The terms of reference of the Standards Committee contain the following responsibility.
- The approval and administration of arrangements under which allegations of breach of the code of conduct for members and co-opted members can be investigated and decisions on such allegations can be made.
- 4.4 It is good practice to periodically review the arrangements for Code of Conduct matters to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. Accordingly, The Monitoring Officer has reviewed the arrangements. This report seeks for the Committee to note the report and the updated arrangements as shown in Appendix 1.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to consider – Not an option in light of it being good practice to review such arrangements.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee are recommended to note the updated arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Councillors Code of Conduct at Appendix 1 which has been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer.

Decision Information

Key Decision	Not applicable
Subject to Call in	Not applicable
If not, why not subject to call in	Not applicable
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Appendix 1 - Arrangements for Local Determination of Allegations of Alleged Breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
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