



Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

15 January 2025

Monitoring Officer's Report

Report by:
Monitoring Officer

Officer Contact:
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Purpose

To update members on the current position in relation to standards complaints.

Recommendations

1. To note the current statistical information and agree that Appendix 1 should be published on the Council's website to confirm this.
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1. Standards Complaints

- 1.1. The Appendix to this report sets out the latest statistical data related to standards complaints.

- 1.2. Members will see that there has been four further complaints since the last report in October 2024 which has been concluded. The 4 linked complaints continue to remain held in abeyance.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statistical information regarding complaints made

Background papers: Nil

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: It is good practice for statistical information to be provided to the Governance Committee. Where any complaints are referred to in the appendix, a summary of the complaint without any personal data is provided.

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees: None

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Complaints Procedure

Standards Enquiries and Investigations Statistics – Localism Act 2011

March 2024 – to October 2024

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
1. No formal complaint, invalid or withdrawn	2	27/24	Parish tier	Nov 24	Various allegations	<p>Most allegations made within the complaint invalid as outside MO jurisdiction. One aspect of complaint determined as NFA by the MO without seeking views from the councillor concerned or an independent person as a result of the complaints history in accordance with exception provided within complaints process.</p> <p>Invalid – outside MO jurisdiction</p> <p>Note – clarification concerning MO jurisdiction has been added to the website landing page.</p>
		28/24	Parish tier	Dec 24	Allegations relating to breach of procurement and financial rules	
2. No further action required after consultation	2	29 & 30/24	Parish tier	Dec 24	Allegations relating to disrespect/bullying in social media posts	Capacity unclear but concluded unlikely to be a breach of the code of conduct in any event

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
with one of the Independent Persons						
3. Other action after consultation with one of the independent Persons	0					
4. Complaint on hold	4	23 -26	Parish tier & city	Sept 24	Various including disrespect, bullying & discrimination	Standards complaints held in abeyance pending police consideration.
5. Decision as to appropriate action still awaited						
6. Complaints being investigated	0					
Total	8					

Formal Complaint Outcomes

	Case No. and Councillor	Committee Date and Decision	Date Issue First Raised	Current Position
Outcome of Investigations				
Other Action				