



Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

16 October 2024

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 the past few months have been busy in terms of receiving complaints. Most of the complaints have been concluded informally. There are 4 linked complaints that remain outstanding, these are currently 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 No formal complaint, invalid or withdrawn	9	9, 10, 13, 15-20/24	Parish tier	July/August 2024	Various allegations	Complaints invalid – complainant advised and NFA
2. No further action required after consultation with one of the Independent Persons	5	2/24	Parish tier	Mar 24	Alleged disrespect towards a councillor at a meeting	Below threshold to warrant action. NFA
		3 & 4/24	Parish tier	April 24	Various allegations	Most issues outside of MO jurisdiction/remaining below threshold for investigation. NFA
		6/24	City	May 24	Disrepute	Could not amount to breach – NFA
		14/24	Parish tier	Aug 24	Various allegations including disrespect	Below threshold for investigation NFA

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
3. Other action after consultation with one of the independent Persons	8	1/24	Parish tier	Mar 24	Various allegations including declaration of interests	Councillor given opportunity to update their ROI. Completed. NFA
		5/24	Parish tier	May 24	Declaration of interests	Cllr asked to consider decision notice and revert with compliant approach for the future. Compliant approach provided. NFA
		7/24	Parish tier	June 24	Declaration of interests	Cllr asked to consider advice in decision notice. Provided assurance for future declarations and confirmed had received training. NFA
		8/24	Parish tier	June 24	Declaration of interests	Cllr asked to consider advice in decision notice. Provided assurance for future declarations and confirmed had received training. NFA
		11/24	Parish tier	July 24	Various allegations including disrespect	Other action - reminder of expectations of councillors. NFA
		12/24	Parish tier	July 24	Various allegations including disrespect	Other action – reminder of expectations of councillors. NFA

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
		21/24	Parish tier	Aug 24	Improper advantage/failure to declare interest	Unclear whether breach. Information provided as to relevant tests. Below threshold for investigation. NFA
		22/24	Parish tier	Aug 24	Various allegations including disrespect and disrepute	Below threshold for investigation. Informal letter to councillor. NFA
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	0					
6. Complaints being investigated	0					
Total	26					

Formal Complaint Outcomes

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