

WIRRAL COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

20 November 2018

SUBJECT:	SUMMARY OF STANDARDS COMPLAINTS
REPORT OF:	MONITORING OFFICER

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of standards complaints received under the Members' Code of Conduct and Protocol for dealing with complaints against Members between 1 June 2017 and 31 October 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the summary of standards complaints set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider the handling and progress of standards complaints.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The process for the administration of standards complaints is undertaken in accordance with the Protocol for dealing with complaints against Members which was approved by the Committee in 2014.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council is required to deal with complaints made against Members under its approved Ethical Framework.
- 3.2 In order to assist with the effective administration of standards complaints, the Committee, as part of its monitoring role, is invited to consider the nature and handling of complaints received pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 sets out a summary of the complaints received and their status.
- 3.4 The Ethical Framework requires complaints to be dealt with confidentiality and therefore it is not possible to provide extensive details in respect of each complaint.
- 3.5 Between 1 June 2017 and 31 October 2018 a total of 19 complaints in respect of the conduct of 13 Members have been received. The complaints were received from 15 complainants but 2 complainants complained about 3 members in the one complaint in relation to the same issue.

Period	Complainant		Ongoing	Referred for Investigation	Outcome		
	Member	Public			Upheld	Partially Upheld/ other outcome	Not Upheld
01/06/2017 to 31/10/2018	3	16	0	1	2	3	14

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report save that where an external investigator is appointed, additional costs will be incurred. Such costs

will vary depending upon the nature of the complaint and the time taken to undertake and complete the investigation.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 the Council is required to have a Code of Conduct relating to the conduct of Members and arrangements in place to deal with any complaints received in respect of Members conduct.
- 5.2 This report provides an opportunity for the Committee to monitor the progress of complaints.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no such issues arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The administration of standards complaints should be dealt with as efficiently as possible to ensure matters are concluded quickly and closure of issues secured for both complaint and the subject member(s) involved.

8.0 ENAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There are no such issues arising.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific discrimination issues arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Standards Complaints

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF STANDARDS COMPLAINTS 1 JUNE 2017 – 31 OCTOBER 2018

	Date received	Nature of complaint	Date concluded
1	5 June 2017	Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	24 July 2017 – Not upheld
2	8 July 2017	Failed to treat others with respect. Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	31 October 2017 - upheld
3	14 July 2017	Failed to treat others with respect. Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	28 July 2017 – Local resolution
4	25 September 2017	Failure to declare interest. Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	23 November – Not upheld
5	28 September 2017	Failed to treat others with respect. Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	7 December 2017 – Not upheld
6	29 September 2017	Failed to treat others with respect. Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	7 December 2017 – Not upheld
7	3 October 2017	Failed to treat others with respect. Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	7 December 2017 – Local resolution
8	20 October 2017	Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	22 November 2017 – Not upheld
9	23 October 2017	Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	20 November 2017 – Local resolution
10	29 November 2017	Failed to treat others with respect. Conduct inconsistent with the duty to promote and maintain high standards	18 January 2018 – Not upheld