

WIRRAL COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

26 January 2012

SUBJECT:	STANDARDS COMPLAINTS - MONITORING
WARD AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW HR & ASSET MANAGEMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CORORATE RESOURCES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides a summary of standards complaints as requested by the Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee notes the updated summary of standards complaints attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Standards Committee requested that an updated summary of standards complaints be provided at each of its meetings.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Council is required to deal with complaints made against Members under its approved Standards Regime.

4.2 In order to assist with the effective administration of standards complaints, the Committee, as part of its monitoring role, requested that details of all complaints and those that remain outstanding be provided at each meeting.

4.3 Appendix 1 sets out the summary requested by the Committee from which the Committee will note that there are (as at the time of publishing this report) a total of five complaints outstanding. An oral update will be provided to the Committee at the meeting should this position change.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 It is recognised that unnecessary delays can be frustrating and can cause distress to the parties involved.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The process for the administration of standards complaints is prescribed by legislation and, therefore, alternative processes have not been considered. Officers are, however, reviewing existing arrangements so as to significantly improve the time taken for standards complaints to be processed and ensure errors are not made.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 There are no implications for Voluntary, Community and Faith groups arising from this report.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 8.1 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.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal implications are set out within this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no carbon reduction implications in this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no planning and community safety implications in this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Standards Complaints

REFERENCE MATERIAL

No reference material has been used in the preparation of this report.