

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **CONSTITUTION & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**June 2024**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF STANDARDS COMPLAINTS</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER</b>

#### **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 January 2023 and 31 March 2024.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Constitution and Standards 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 February 2019.

### **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 between 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2024 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 January and 31 March 2024 a total of 39 complaints in respect of the conduct of 7 Members have been received. The complaints were received from 34 different complainants. There were 4 complaints raised by Members against other Members. One complaint received was referred for a formal investigation.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report save that where an external investigator or trainer 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 or undertake the training.

### **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 One of the Independent Persons is consulted every time a complaint is assessed and evaluated and whenever an investigation is undertaken.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific environmental and climate issues arising from this report.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no specific community wealth building issues arising from this report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Vicki Shaw**  
Head of Legal Services  
and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Telephone: 0151 691 8469  
Email: [vickishaw@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:vickishaw@wirral.gov.uk)

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1 – Summary of Standards Complaints**

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Members' Code of conduct

The Protocol for dealing with complaints against Members

## APPENDIX 1

### Summary of complaints received 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2024

No	Date received	Nature of Complaint	Date concluded & outcome
1	11.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
2	11.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
3	13.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
4	15.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
5	16.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
6	23.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
7	26.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
8	26.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
9	26.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
10	27.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
11	28.01.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
12	05.02.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	23.02.23 No breach
13	28.02.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	Investigation not concluded as subject ceased to be a Member.
14	15.03.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	26.05.23 No breach
15	15.03.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	02.06.23 No breach
16	17.03.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	02.06.23 No breach
17	29.03.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	04.08.23 No breach
18	27.06.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	24.10.23 No breach
19	20.07.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	28.09.23 No breach
20	20.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
21	21.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
22	21.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
23	21.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach

24	21.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
25	21.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
26	21.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
27	22.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
28	22.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
29	22.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
30	23.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
31	24.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
32	25.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
33	25.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
34	26.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
35	26.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
36	27.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
37	29.09.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	15.12.23 No breach
38	02.10.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	Complaint withdrawn 03.01.24
39	23.11.23	Conduct inconsistent with standards of public life	29.01.24 No breach