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21 March 2022

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Standards Committee will be held in **Council Chamber, Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF** on **Wednesday 30 March 2022 at 6.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

Members: Councillors Tilbrook (Chair), P. English (Vice-Chair), Bennett, Bicknell, Buckland, Caffyn, Daniells, J. English, Gregory, Haywood and Kelly

PLEASE NOTE: Where public meetings are being held at the Arun Civic Centre, to best manage safe space available, members of the public are encouraged to watch the meeting online via the Council's Committee pages.

1. Where a member of the public wishes to attend the meeting or has registered a request to take part in Public Question Time, they will be invited to submit the question in advance of the meeting to be read out by an Officer, but of course can attend the meeting in person. There will be limited public access to this meeting and admission for public speakers will be by ticket only, bookable when submitting questions. Attendees will be asked to sit in an allocated seat in the public gallery on a first come first served basis. Only one ticket will be available per person.
2. It is *recommended* that all those attending take a lateral flow test prior to the meeting.
3. Those attending the meeting will *not* be required to wear a face covering however, are encouraged to bring one along to cover instances where a meeting may have higher public attendance. Masks will be made available at the meeting.
4. We request members of the public do not attend any face to face meeting if they have Covid-19 symptoms.

Any members of the public wishing to address the Committee meeting during Public Question Time, will need to email Committees@arun.gov.uk by 5.15 pm on Tuesday 22 March 2022 in line with current Committee Meeting Procedure Rules.

It will be at the Chief Executive's/Chair's discretion if any questions received after this deadline are considered.

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact
Committees@arun.gov.uk.

A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda, and are reminded that they should re-declare their interest before consideration of the item or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

Members and Officers should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item that they the interest in
- b) whether it is a pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interest
- c) the nature of the interest

3. **MINUTES**

(Pages 1 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2021 (attached)

4. **ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

To receive questions from the public (for a period of up to 15 minutes)

6. **MONITORING OFFICER REPORT**

(Pages 7 - 12)

This report asks Standards Committee to note the report of the Monitoring Officer and to give directions as set out in the report.

[30 Minutes]

7. **WORK PROGRAMME**

(Pages 13 - 16)

The Committee is required to note the Work Programme for 2021/22.

[5 Minutes]

8. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS (Pages 17 - 18)

This report updates the Committee on the complaints against Councillors received since the last report. The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of the District and Town and Parish Councils, for monitoring operation of the Code of Conduct, and for considering the outcome of investigations in the event of breaches of the Code.

[5 Minutes]

9. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee is asked to consider passing the following resolution: -

That under Section 100a (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

10. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS (Pages 19 - 30)

This report updates the Committee on the complaints against Councillors received over the past two years.

[15 Minutes]

Note : If Members have any detailed questions, they are reminded that they need to inform the Chair and relevant Director in advance of the meeting.

Note : Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings – The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. This meeting may therefore be recorded, filmed or broadcast by video or audio, by third parties. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and as available via the following link [Filming Policy](#)

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16 December 2021 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillors Tilbrook (Chair), P. English (Vice-Chair), Bicknell, J. English, Haywood, Kelly and Edwards (Substitute for Caffyn)

Also present were Independent Persons Mr J Thompson and Mr J Cooke.

Councillors Gunner were also in attendance for all or part of the meeting.

531. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gregory and Caffyn and Independent Person Mrs Sandra Prail.

532. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

533. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 were approved by the Committee. These would be signed at the end of the meeting.

534. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair confirmed that no questions were submitted for this meeting.

535. MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

Upon invitation of the Chair, the Group Head of Law and Governance introduced the report. She highlighted the proposed actions for Members to note and agree on, which included the Member/Officer Protocol to be brought back to Committee in the near future; it was good practice for local authorities to adopt a Protocol for the Monitoring Officer, she wanted the Committee's view on whether they would like this developed; an update on the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, signing of the Code by Members, and Monitoring the operation of the Code as detailed in the report; it was suggested to Members that the flowchart on Page 9 regarding Declaration of Interests would be tabled on each agenda for each Committee, to be used as an aide memoir for Members to see if there was anything they should declare; Code of Conduct Training took place on 7 December, 23 Members attended this, and the recording would be circulated to all Members; Page 49-51 showed which training Members had received, and who could substitute on the relevant Committees.

Standards Committee - 16.12.21

Members (and a non-Committee Member given permission to speak by the Committee) then took part in a full debate and the following points were raised:

- The report did not mention delegating investigations to relevant Officers. The Group Head of Law and Governance said this would need to be taken to the Constitution Working Party to request that this was included in the Constitution.
- Whether the Code of Conduct could be signed electronically, which it was confirmed was acceptable.
- Whether the definition of the different Interests could be included on the back of the flowchart.
- The Bognor Regis Town Council Code of Conduct was for Members to note.
- Whether Parish and Town Councillors would receive training on the Code of Conduct. The Group Head of Law and Governance confirmed the training session would be circulated to Parish and Town Councillors.
- Would Group Leaders' comments and feedback be included in the flowchart on Page 9? It was confirmed these would be incorporated.
- It was asked that the Training Matrix be circulated to all Members.
- It was asked that training be organised to ensure Members were available to substitute for the Standards and Audit & Governance Committees.

The Committee agreed to note the Monitoring Officer Report and the proposed actions, specifically developing a protocol for the Monitoring Officer role, noting the Bognor Regis Town Council Code of Conduct, noting the appendices including the training matrix and the Declaration of Interest flowchart, and also to request to Constitution Working Party that the wording of the Constitution be reviewed to allow other Officers to investigate complaints.

536. REVIEW OF THE 2021 MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

Upon invitation of the Chair, the Group Head of Law and Governance introduced the report. Page 54, paragraph 1.5 was highlighted, which confirmed that the previous Monitoring Officer had delivered some training to District Councillors, and external training was delivered to Members on the 7 December, which was an extensive 2 hour session. This would be circulated to Parish Councillors.

Members (and a non-Committee Member given permission to speak by the Committee) then took part in a full debate and the following points were raised:

- No Members had been in contact to raise concerns about the Code.
- The Declarations of Interest flowchart would be sufficient.
- It would be helpful to have a definition of the Declarations on the back page of the flowchart.
- The Committee should consider extending the scope over which an interest should be declared, and it was felt the wording on Paragraph 9 of Page 24 of the Bognor Regis Town Council Code of Conduct, should be added to Arun's Code.
- As the Code was agreed by Committee in March 2021, it was too early for a review, however any changes felt necessary should be made now.

It was agreed that the Code of Conduct would be placed onto the Work Programme and brought back to the Committee with the requested alterations.

Following discussion, Recommendation 1 was Proposed by Councillor Edwards and Seconded by Councillor Bicknell.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the 2021 Code of Conduct is effective and appropriate and needs no review at this time

537. REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Upon invitation of the Chair, the Group Head of Law and Governance introduced the report. She explained the Localism Act required that at least one Independent Person (IP) be appointed to Committee. Currently Arun had three IPs which provided resilience and support, and she felt three were sufficient.

Members then took part in a full debate and the following points were raised:

- The current pool of IPs was sufficient, they had a raft of experience, and Arun was very lucky to have them.
- The IPs felt that three were sufficient as they needed the regular flow of work to gain the experience, and additional IPs would reduce this.
- It was asked how many times the IPs had been used over the past 12 months. The Group Head of Law and Governance explained her processes and that she sought advice from the IPs on a rotational basis. The IPs present said they had given advice on 2 and 3 matters each.
- It was asked whether it could be made clearer on the register which IPs gave advice on which complaint.

Following discussion, Recommendation 1 was Proposed by Councillor Bicknell and Seconded by Councillor Haywood.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the current pool of three Independent Persons is sufficient to give support to Committee on Standards matters

Standards Committee - 16.12.21

538. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND HEARINGS PROCEDURE

Upon invitation of the Chair, the Group Head of Law and Governance introduced the report and explained the recommendations to the Committee.

Members (and a non-Committee Member given permission to speak by the Committee) then took part in a full debate and the following points were raised:

- Clarification was sought around the list of anomalies for the Local Assessment Procedure and support was given for the proposed actions.
- It was suggested that the Hearings Panel Procedure Paragraph 14 be changed to 5 working days to mirror the Local Assessment Procedure.
- Members of the Standards Committee were there to uphold the standards and Code of Conduct at Arun District Council, and party politics should not form part of Standards Committee meetings or Hearings Panels.
- It was felt that if a Subject Member was accompanied during the Hearing, the person accompanying them should not be allowed to speak to the Panel, ask questions or represent the Subject Member. Consideration should also be given to whether or not the accompanying person should or should not be a fellow Councillor.
- Whether political proportionality should be applied to Hearings Panels should be reviewed.
- There was an urgent need for additional training specifically regarding Hearings Panels in order for more Councillors to be able to sit on them.
- It was felt the Chair or Vice-Chair of Standards should sit on the Hearings Panels.

Further discussion took place on whether an accompanying friend should be allowed to talk in a Hearings Panel. The Group Head of Law and Governance emphasised that her recommendation was to give the Panel the decision as to whether or not the accompanying person should be able to speak. It was asked what the practice of other local authorities was. In the experience of the Group Head of Law and Governance, it was usually down to the Panel to decide.

Councillor Edwards Proposed an amendment to the comment at 5e on Appendix A which would be to read 'The rule of natural justice will apply, and the Subject Member will be advised that they can choose to be accompanied by a friend or colleague. The friend or colleague may speak with the Subject Member but may not address the Panel.'

This was Seconded by Councillor Paul English, and following a vote, confirmed as CARRIED.

The Chair asked the Committee to vote on whether to support or remove the comment at Paragraph 2 of Appendix A. The Committee agreed that the comment 'We would include representation from at least 2 different political groups' was not supported and should be removed.

Following discussion, Recommendation 2, with the changes agreed to the comments on Paragraphs 5e and 2 of Appendix A, was Proposed by Councillor Edwards and Seconded by Councillor Paul English.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to carry out changes identified on Appendix A, as amended during Committee's consideration of this item

539. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the Work Programme.

540. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS

Upon invitation of the Chair, the Group Head of Law and Governance introduced the report.

There were no questions from Members.

The recommendation was Proposed by Councillor P English and Seconded by Councillor Edwards.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Register of Complaints against Councillors and progress of any outstanding complaints be noted.

541. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee

RESOLVED

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the items.

Standards Committee - 16.12.21

542. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS

The recommendation was Proposed and Seconded.

Following a discussion, the Committee

RESOLVED

That the Register of Complaints against Councillors be noted.

(The meeting concluded at 8.11 pm)

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 30 MARCH 2022

REPORT

SUBJECT: Monitoring Officer Report – March 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: Solomon Agutu – Interim Monitoring Officer
DATE: March 2022
EXTN: 37610
AREA: Corporate Support – Law & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report asks Standards Committee to note the report of the Monitoring Officer and to give directions as set out in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Committee

1. Notes the Monitoring Officer Report and supports the proposed items for the future workplan.

Background

The functions of the Monitoring Officer (MO) are set out in Part 2 of the Constitution (Articles). Those functions relevant to Standards Committee are:

- (a) Maintaining the Constitution – the Monitoring Officer will maintain an up-to-date version of the Constitution and will ensure that it is widely available for consultation by Councillors, officers and the public.
- (b) N/A
- (c) Supporting the Standards Committee – the Monitoring Officer will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Standards Committee.
- (d) Conducting investigations – the Monitoring Officer will consider allegations of misconduct by Councillors in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Assessment Procedure.

Member/Officer Protocol.

The Monitoring Officer is looking to review this Protocol and will bring a report to a future Committee meeting to be considered in the context of the changes being proposed to align the constitution to a committee system and way from Cabinet thinking.

The Monitoring Officer would also like to develop a protocol for the role of the Monitoring Officer. Whilst their duties are listed within the Constitution (Part 2 – Articles; Para 4.0), it

is considered good practice to have a specific protocol to guide Members and Officers as to what can be expected of the Monitoring Officer. This will be brought to a future committee meeting.

Monitoring take-up of the Arun new Code of Conduct

Following adoption of the new Code, the Monitoring Officer (supported by Independent Persons) held a briefing session for all Parish Clerks to promote the adoption of the new Code in the Parish Councils. The new Code was then submitted to the Parishes for adoption. So far, 22 Parishes have agreed to adopt the Code. Of these:-

- 18 have adopted the 2021 Code and completed their documentation
- 4 have agreed to adopt but we are still waiting for a full suite of signed documents (Arundel, Bognor Regis, Lyminster & Crossbush, Pagham)
- Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council is remaining with the 2012 Code
- Littlehampton Town Council has their own Code
- Ford Parish Council will be discussing at their meeting 15/3/22, awaiting advice.

Signing Acceptance of the Code

The Monitoring Officer monitors the signing of acceptance by Members of the new Code. We are just waiting for one outstanding declaration which will be returned by the end of March.

Monitoring the Operation of the Code.

At their meeting on 16 December 2021, Committee discussed the effectiveness and relevance of the 2021 Code and suggested some updates., Committee agreed that the Code in place was effective and appropriate and did not require a full review. However, they did wish for a clearer definition of registrable interests and requested that the Monitoring Officer extend the scope over which an interest should be declared. Committee requested that the narrative included in Bognor Regis Town Council's Code of Conduct be replicated within Arun's Code. (Minute 536 refers). The Monitoring Officer has reviewed the proposals and the Monitoring Officer does not believe that explanations should be part of or within the Code but if needed should be given as a standalone briefing paper.

In examining the requested changes, the Monitoring Officer also identified some additional minor amendments where reference is made to 'Cabinet' and a numbering error at paragraphs 3.4 & 3.5. These changes will be made as part of the current fine tuning of the constitution which is designed to make the constitution culturally reflect the committee style as opposed to cabinet style.

Monitoring the operation of the Local Assessment/Hearing Procedure and recommending any revisions to the Full Council.

No further updates.

Where not covered by the Local Assessment Procedure, determining the action to be taken on any failure of a District Councillor, Town or Parish Councillor or co-opted Member to comply with the relevant authority's Code of Conduct following a report from the Monitoring Officer.

The Monitoring Officer has nothing to report on this issue at this meeting.

Conducting Investigations and arranging for the establishment of Hearing Panels under the Local Assessment Procedure

The register of complaints under consideration and investigation is a separate item on the agenda.

Delivery of training on the Members' Code of Conduct to District Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors and co-opted Members.

Training on the Code of Conduct was delivered to district councillors virtually, by an external provider, on 7 December 2021 – 23 district councillors attended this. The recording of the presentation, and a copy of the presentation slides, was subsequently circulated to all councillors, and those who were unable to attend the presentation have been asked to watch the recording and confirm to the Monitoring Officer that they have done so. A reminder was issued on 02.02.22. At the time of writing this report, 9 councillors have done so (total of 32 completions). A further reminder will be issued to councillors who have not yet responded.

Recruitment of Independent Persons

Nothing further to report.

Related Functions

The MO is constantly monitoring supporting the training and development of Members on other areas related to their work. The Monitoring Officer proposes that Members receive a report at the next meeting dealing with Member Learning and Development generally. The Monitoring Officer believes that Members should help develop an induction programme and a rolling programme. If committee agree the report will cover:-

- 1) induction programme for new Members following May 2023 elections
- 2) a development programme for Members for the period 2023 – 2027.

As this committee only meets four times a year it makes sense to forward plan this important work.

Member Learning and Development

See Training Matrix attached at Appendix A.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

The proposal is that Committee notes the report and comment where necessary.

3. OPTIONS:

None

4. CONSULTATION:

N/A

Has consultation been undertaken with?	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		✓

Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6. IMPLICATIONS:

This is a standard report to keep Committee Members abreast of the relevant work of the Monitoring Officer since the last meeting of the Committee

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

This report is for Committee information.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix A - Training Matrix

	BAKER	BATLEY	BENNETT	BICKNELL	BLANCHARD-COOPER	BOWER	BROOKS	BUCKLAND	CAFFYN	CATTERSON	CHACE	CHAPMAN	CHARLES	CLAYDEN	COOPER, ANDY	COOPER, ALISON	COSTER	DANIELLS	DENDLE	DIXON	EDWARDS	ELKINS	ENGLISH, JOAN	ENGLISH, PAUL	GOODHEART	GREGORY	GUNNER	HAMILTON	HAYWOOD	HUGHES	HUNTLEY	JONES	KELLY	LURY
Committee Training																																		
Planning Policy																																		
Planning Policy (trained as subs)																																		
Planning Committee																																		
Planning Committee (Named subs)																																		
Planning Committee (trained as subs)																																		
Audit & Governance																																		
Audit & Governance (trained as subs)																																		
Licensing Committee																																		
Licensing Sub-Committee NB No provision for substitutte or reserve (Full Council 15.07.20)																																		
Standards Committee																																		
Standards Committee (trained as subs)																																		
Other Training																																		
Treasury Management Link Group) - 13 July 2021																																		
Code of Conduct Training (7 Dec 2021)																																		
Committee System Training (6&11 Jan 2022)																																		
Committee System Training for Chairs/Vice-Chairs (13 Jan 2022)																																		
Planning - Appeals Performance & Monitoring Report 01.02.22																																		
Notes:																																		
Key:-																																		
Training attended/completed																																		
Training required but not completed																																		
Trained as subs																																		

[illegible]

STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

Standards Committee Monitoring Officer	Report Author	Date of Meeting	Full Council Meeting Date
1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)	1 July 2021	14 July 21
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)		
3. Standards Committee Terms of Reference	Monitoring Officer		
4. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)	16 September 21	10 November 21
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)		
3. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
4. Member Learning & Development	Monitoring Officer		
5. Review of Protocol of Member/Officer Relations	Monitoring Officer		
6. Review of Code of Conduct Complaint Form	Monitoring Officer		
1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)	16 December 2021	12 Jan 22
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)		

STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

3. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
4. Review of Independent Persons	Monitoring Officer		
5. Review of Local Assessment & Hearings Procedures	Monitoring Officer		
6. Review of the Members Code of Conduct	Monitoring Officer		
1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)	30 March 2022	11 May 2022
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer (via Shirley)		
3. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
4. Member/Officer Protocol (update included in MO Report)	Monitoring Officer		
5. Monitoring Officer Protocol (update included in MO report)	Monitoring Officer		
6. Updates to Members Code of Conduct (update included in MO report)	Monitoring Officer		

DRAFT - STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Standards Committee Monitoring Officer	Report Author	Date of Meeting	Full Council Meeting Date
1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer	23 June 2022	13 July 2022
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer		
3. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
4. Member Learning & Development	Monitoring Officer		
5.			
6.			
1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer	13 October 2022	09 November 2022
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer		
3. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
4. Member Learning & Development	Monitoring Officer		
5.			
6.			

DRAFT - STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer	15 December 2022	18 January 2023
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer		
3. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
4. Member Learning & Development	Monitoring Officer		
5. Review of Social Media Guidance	Monitoring Officer		
6.			
1. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Public)	Monitoring Officer	23 February 2023	15 March 2023
2. Register of Assessments of Complaints Against Councillors (Exempt)	Monitoring Officer		
3. Monitoring Officer Report	Monitoring Officer		
4. Member Learning & Development	Monitoring Officer		
5.			
6.			

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 30 MARCH 2022

SUBJECT:	Register of Assessments of Complaints against Councillors
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REPORT AUTHOR:	Solomon Agutu – Interim Monitoring Officer
DATE:	March 2022
EXTN:	ext 37610
AREA:	Corporate Support – Law & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report updates the Committee on the complaints against Councillors received since the last report. The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of the District and Town and Parish Councils, for monitoring operation of the Code of Conduct, and for considering the outcome of investigations in the event of breaches of the Code.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to resolve that:

- (1) the Register of Complaints against Councillors and progress of any outstanding complaints be noted.

1.0 BACKGROUND AND COMPLAINT ACTIVITY

- 1.1 A Register of Assessments of Complaints against Councillors is updated regularly by the (Interim) Monitoring Officer and distributed to Members of the Standards Committee. This assists Members in making decisions on where to direct training and to review any lessons learned. The register is also a reference source for Members of other similar complaints, when dealing with assessments.
- 1.2 Since the last report (considered by Standards Committee at the meeting on 16 September 2021), the following complaints have been received, progressed or completed.

Case Ref	Council	Allegation/Complaint	Outcome
21/04	Arun District Council	Breach of Code (Paras 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Misuse of social media and lack of respect	Informal Resolution - Apology issued by Subject Member
21/05	Arun District Council	Paras not identified as yet Disrespect to fellow Councillors and misuse of social media	Informal Resolution – offer of ‘round table’ meeting to air grievances and resolve. Rejected by one Subject

			Member. MO to decide how to take forward.
2.0 REASON FOR THE INFORMATION			
2.1	To comply with the adopted Code of Conduct and Local Assessment Procedure.		
3.0 OPTIONS			
1.	None as all the complaints have been considered, or are being considered, in line with the adopted Local Assessment Procedure.		
4.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS			
	Members Code of Conduct Local Assessment Procedure	https://www.arun.gov.uk/complaints-against-councillors https://www.arun.gov.uk/complaints-against-councillors	

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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