

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 23 JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: Register of Assessments of Complaints against Councillors

REPORT AUTHOR: Solomon Agutu – Interim Monitoring Officer

DATE: May 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 30 March 2022), the following complaints have been received, progressed or completed.

Case Ref	Council	Allegation/Complaint	Outcome
21/05	Arun District Council	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.

21/06	Arun District Council	Disrespect, bullying and bringing the council into disrepute following comments made at a committee meeting	Monitoring Officer carrying out initial assessment
22/01	Felpham Parish Council	Not acting with integrity/honesty, not acting lawfully, not treating people fairly.	Investigation underway
22/02	Arun District Council	Disrespect shown towards fellow councillors	Monitoring Officer carrying out initial assessment
22/03	Arun District Council	Disrespect shown towards public	Monitoring Officer carrying out initial assessment

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>