

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 3 DECEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: Register of Assessments of Complaints against Councillors

REPORT AUTHOR: Nicholas Bennett – Acting Monitoring Officer
DATE: November 2020
EXTN: via 01903 737601

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 & 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 (Acting) 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 24 September 2020), the following complaints have been received, progressed or completed.

Case Ref	Council	Allegation/Complaint	Outcome
19/14, 19/15, 19/16	Felpham Parish Council	Breach of Code Paras 1,2,5,6,7,10,11 Showing disrespect to members of the public; inferring that a Council Policy had been adopted whilst still in draft form.	Three complaints considered by Assessment Panel. A review of the Panel's decision has been requested.

20/04	Arun District Council	Breach of Code – Paras 8, 9, and 10. Conduct at meetings	Stage investigation progress	1 in
20/06	Arun District Council	Breach of Code, Paras 1 & 8. Conduct at meetings	Informal resolution agreed	
20/07	Arun District Council & Littlehampton Town Council	Breach of Code – Para 10 Disrespect shown on social media	Informal resolution rejected. Complaint closed.	
20/08	Arun District Council	Breach of Code – Para 10 Treating people with respect	Informal resolution agreed.	
20/09	Arun District Council	Breach of Code – Para 10 Disrespect shown on social media	Informal resolution agreed. Complaint closed.	

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 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>
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