

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 18 FEBRUARY 2021

**SUBJECT:** Register of Assessments of Complaints against Councillors

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Solomon Agutu - Interim Monitoring Officer  
**DATE:** January 2021  
**EXTN:** ext 37432

### 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 (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 3 December 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. Monitoring Officer to agree way forward.
20/04	Arun District Council	Breach of Code – Paras 8, 9, and 10.	Investigation report received.

			Conduct at meetings	Recommended actions to be considered.
20/10	Arun District Council	Breach of Code (paras to be identified)  Misrepresentation of Councillor role.		Stage 1 investigation in progress
20/12	Arun District Council	Breach of Code – Paras 1-11 and 13 and 15-17  Non-disclosure of pecuniary interests		Police investigation underway
20/13	Arun District Council	Breach of Code (Paras to be identified)  Behaviour at Council meetings		Monitoring Officer considering options
20/15	Arun District Council	Breach of Code – Paras 9, 10, 11  Behaviour of Councillor at Council meeting		Informal resolution agreed, public apology given at Full Council 13.01.21
20/16	Arun District Council	Breach of Code (Paras not identified)  Inappropriate behaviour at Council meeting		Apology given at same meeting. Complaint not progressed.
20/17	Arun District Council	Breach of Code (paras 1-11)  Lack of communication; disrespect.		Stage 1 investigation initiated. Complainant now seeking legal advice so 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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