

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 16 DECEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: Register of Assessments of Complaints against Councillors

REPORT AUTHOR: Sameera Khan – Monitoring Officer
DATE: November 2021
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
20/12	Arun District Council	Breach of Code – Paras 1-11 and 13 and 15-17 Non-disclosure of pecuniary interests	Taken to Hearings Panel 25.10.21 – Panel determined no breach
20/20	Arun District Council	Breach of Code (Paras 9, 10, 11)	Apology offered at Council meeting – not accepted by complainant.

			Showing disrespect to colleague Councillors.	Monitoring Officer deemed no further action as Member behaviour (in general) has been addressed. Complainant seeking further redress.
20/22	Arun District Council		Breach of Code (Paras 9 & 10) Unacceptable conduct at a training event.	Monitoring Officer conducting initial assessment.
21/01 & 21/02	Arun District Council		Conduct at Committee Meeting	Complaints rejected – no breach identified
21/03	Bognor Regis Town Council		Bringing the Town Council into disrepute	Complaint rejected as mistake was human error – suggest that apology issued.
21/04	Arun District Council		Breach of Code (Paras 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Misuse of social media and lack of respect	Monitoring Officer conducting initial assessment
21/05	Arun District Council		Paras not identified as yet Disrespect to fellow Councillors and misuse of social media	Monitoring Officer conducting 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>
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