

## MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2023

### Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer

#### Part A

##### UPDATE ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

###### Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee with an update on the complaints about breaches of the Code of Conduct that have been received and any issues arising from those complaints.

###### Recommendation

That the current position in respect of complaints about breaches of the Code of Conduct that have been received be noted.

###### Reason

To keep the Committee informed about complaints.

###### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The functions and responsibilities of the Committee set out in the Council's Constitution include determining any complaints that members of the Borough Council or the parish and town councils in the Borough have breached the Code of Conduct. The initial stages of the complaints process are dealt with by the Monitoring Officer and the purpose of this report is to keep the Committee informed of the volume and nature of complaints that are received.

###### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

It is recommended that the Committee receives reports at each meeting about the complaints that have been received.

###### Report Implications

###### ***Financial Implications***

None.

###### ***Risk Management***

There are no specific risks associated with this decision'

###### ***Equality and Diversity***

None identified.

## **Climate Change and Carbon Impact**

None identified.

## ***Crime and Disorder***

None identified.

## **Wards Affected**

Not applicable.

## **Publicity Arrangements**

Not applicable.

## ***Consultations***

Not applicable.

## **Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Caring for the Environment	No
Healthy Communities	No
A Thriving Economy	No
Your Council	Yes

Background Papers:                      None

Officer to contact:                      Karen Widdowson  
Deputy Monitoring Officer  
01509 634785  
karen.widdowson@charnwood.gov.uk

## Part B

### Summary of Complaints received to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Since the last update report to the Committee there has been 1 new complaint received.

The table in Appendix A has been updated to show the latest position in relation to the complaints received previously.

For comparative information, the following table summarises complaints received in previous years (including complaints about both Borough and Parish/Town Councils).

Year	Total Complaints
2012/13 (9 mths)	10
2013/14	6
2014/15	21
2015/16	14
2016/17	7
2017/18	10
2018/19	13
2019/20	9
2020/21	7
2021/22	6
2022/23	4
2023/24 (to date)	5

### Appendices

Appendix A – List of complaints & actions

Appendix B – Fact Finding Summaries published since the last meeting

Details of Complaints Received in 2023/24

APPENDIX A

Type of councillor	Number of complaints	Outcome	Issues raised in complaint	Reason for no further action	Description of other action	Outcome of investigation
Borough	1	No further action or investigation	Member objected to a planning application in a biased way, did not respond to an email, and also parks irresponsibly	Not sufficiently serious enough to warrant further action or investigation		
Parish / Town	4	Investigation – no breach of the Code of Conduct found	Intimidation and bullying of a parish employee (Quorn Parish Council)			There had not been bullying or intimidation that would amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct
		No further action or investigation	Member was Chair of a committee which did not accept an apology, which was considered to be disrespectful and bullying (Birstall Parish Council)	Conduct would, if proven, not amount to a breach of the Code	Monitoring Officer suggested that mediation between the complainant (also a parish councillor) and the subject Member might be helpful	
		Informal resolution	Withholding information about a complaint against a parish employee and a fellow councillor and not following the correct complaints processes (Quorn Parish Council)		Monitoring Officer facilitated a discussion where both parties agreed a way to deal with the issues – complaint resolved informally	

Type of councillor	Number of complaints	Outcome	Issues raised in complaint	Reason for no further action	Description of other action	Outcome of investigation
		Ongoing – Factfinding stage	A councillor has potentially breached the code of conduct showing lack of civility and respect to another councillor. (Quorn Parish Council)			