

Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee 24 November 2015	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Melanie Clay Corporate Director Law Probity & Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Code of Conduct for Members – Complaints and Investigation Monitoring	

Originating Officer(s)	Melanie Clay
Wards affected	N/A

Summary

The Council's arrangements for dealing with complaints of breach of the Code of Conduct for Members provide for the Monitoring Officer to report quarterly (or less frequently if there are no complaints to report) to the Advisory Committee on the number and nature of complaints received and action taken as a result.

The arrangements as revised by full Council on 18 September 2013 also provide that in cases where the Monitoring Officer has extended the time period of investigations into complaints from two months to three months, s/he provide a report on the reasons to the Advisory Committee for noting.

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. That Members of the Advisory Committee note the complaints and investigation monitoring information contained Appendix 1 to this report.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This is a noting report for consideration by Members and does not require a decision.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 N/A

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 There are 5 new complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct for Members which are being considered in accordance with the Council's existing arrangements for dealing with complaints of breach of the Code.

- 3.2 of the Advisory Committee should also note that the Mayor has responded to the proposed amendments to the arrangements for dealing with alleged breaches under the Code of Conduct as recommended by the Advisory Committee. These proposals are now being considered by the incoming Monitoring Officer who will also be following up with the other political group leaders for their responses to the proposals before reporting back to the Advisory Committee.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising out of this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 This report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer and incorporates legal comments.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific anti-poverty or equal opportunity implications arising out of this report.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council is a best value authority within the meaning of section 1 of the Local Government Act 1999. As such the Council is required under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness (the best value duty).

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 This report has no immediate implications for the Council's policy of sustainable action for a greener environment.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The provision of quarterly reports relating to the number and nature of complaints assists the Advisory Committee in exercising its oversight role in terms of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific crime and disorder reduction implications arising out of this report.

11. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 11.1 This report is not concerned with proposed expenditure, the use of resources or review/changing service delivery and an efficiency statement is not therefore not required.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Complaints and Information Monitoring Information

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

Appendix 1

Complaint reference number	Date complaint received by Monitoring Officer	Complainant	Alleged breach(es) of the Code of Conduct	Outcome of consultation with IP	Date investigation commenced and investigation status	Current Position
01/2015	10/09/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to treat with respect.	No investigation required.	N/A	Awaiting decision of the Investigation & Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
02/2015	19/08/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to treat with respect.	No investigation required.	N/A	Awaiting decision of the Investigation & Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
03/2015	10/09/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to declare interest/predetermination	N/A	N/A	Planning issue referred to the Strategic Development Committee.
04/2015	12/10/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to treat with respect.	To be arranged.	N/A	Consultation with IP to be arranged when initial assessment of complaint has been completed.
05/2015	11/09/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to treat with respect.	To be arranged.	N/A	Consultation with IP to be arranged when initial assessment of complaint has been completed.