


Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee 15 March 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Code of Conduct for Members - Complaints and Investigation Monitoring	

<u>Originating Officer(s)</u>	Melanie Clay, Director of Law, Probity & Governance
<u>Wards affected</u>	All wards

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Appendix 1 to this report updates the Advisory Committee on the quarterly monitoring information for complaints and investigations relating to alleged breaches Council's Code of Conduct for Members.
- 1.2 The last monitoring report to the Committee in November 2015, provided information relating to five new complaints. Members will see from Appendix 1 that of those five complaints, four have now been closed with no further action and one complaint has been independently investigated.

2. RECOMMENDATION

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

5. LEGAL SERVICES COMMENTS

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

6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

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

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. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 10.1 This report is not concerned with proposed expenditure, the use of resources or reviewing/changing service delivery and an efficiency statement is not therefore required.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"	Tick if copy supplied for register	If not supplied, name and telephone number of holder
Standards (Advisory) Committee files		Melanie Clay 020 7364 4800

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	Complaint closed. Investigation & Disciplinary Sub-Committee agreed no further action on 24 November 2015.
02/2015	19/08/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to treat with respect.	No investigation required.	N/A	Complaint closed. Investigation & Disciplinary Sub-Committee agreed no further action on 24 November 2015.
03/2015	10/09/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to declare interest/predetermination	N/A	N/A	Complaint closed. Complaint related to a planning application which has been considered afresh by the Strategic Development Committee.

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
04/2015	12/10/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to treat with respect.	N/A	N/A	Complaint closed. Not accepted as an alleged breach of the Code. Complaint related to procedural/constitutional issues to which the complainant has received a response.
05/2015	11/09/2015	Member of the public.	Failure to treat with respect.	Complaint referred for independent investigation.	Investigation commenced on 14 December 2015.	Investigation completed. A draft investigation report has been circulated to the complainant and member complained about for comment. Final report awaited.