

Committee: STANDARDS (ADVISORY) COMMITTEE	Date: 21 October 2014	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report Of: Interim Monitoring Officer		Title: Code of Conduct for Members – Complaints and Investigation Monitoring		
Originating Officer: Meic Sullivan-Gould		Wards Affected: N/AI		

1. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 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.
- 1.3 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

**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 file

Meic Sullivan-Gould 020
7364 4800

3. ON-GOING AND PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS

- 3.1 The current position in respect of outstanding and previous complaints made during 2013, is set out in the table attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

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 Interim 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.

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
IDSC/01/2013	14/03/2013	Councillor	Failure to treat with respect, bullying, compromising the impartiality of those who work for the Authority, disclosing confidential information, disrepute, using position as a Member to improperly secure an advantage/disadvantage.	Referred for investigation.	Investigation commenced 30/04/2013. As previously reported to Committee, the investigation was delayed due to the need to seek specialist external legal advice, to appoint an alternative investigator and include a subsequent related complaint -IDSC07/2013- in the investigation. The investigation is now complete and the outcome will be referred to a Hearings Sub-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
IDSC/ 02/2013	10/05/2013	Councillor	Failure to treat with respect and bullying.	Informal local resolution of complaint attempted without success. Matter referred for advice to IDSC on 11/12/2013.	On 11/12/13 the Investigation & Disciplinary Sub-Committee (IDSC) recommended that a further attempt at local resolution was sought in consultation with the IP. It was not possible to resolve the complaint on this basis and Jill Bell, the former Deputy Monitoring Officer who was dealing with the complaint commenced an investigation. Ms Bell no longer works for the Council and the Interim Monitoring Officer will therefore review the matter and report back to the Advisory Committee.
IDSC/ 03/2013	10/05/2013	Councillor	Improper use of Council resources.	Not referred for investigation.	N/A complaint closed.
IDSC/ 04/2013	20/05/2013	Member of public	Bullying.	Not referred for investigation.	N/A complaint closed.

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
IDSC/05/2013	11/07/2013	Councillor	Failure to treat with respect, bullying, disrepute, using position as a Member to improperly secure an advantage/disadvantage, improper use of Council resources.	Referred for investigation.	Investigation commenced 09/09/2013. The investigation was delayed due to the need to appoint an alternative investigator. The investigation is now complete and the outcome will be referred to the Investigation and Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
IDSC/06/2013	06/09/2013	Anonymous complainant referred by a Councillor	Failure to treat with respect and bullying.	Councillor was informed that the complainant would need to be identified and interviewed as a potential witness for complaint to be investigated.	The anonymous complainant was not identified and no investigation was commenced.

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
IDSC/07/2013	17 and 23/11/2013	Councillor	Disclosing confidential information and disrepute.	Referred for investigation.	Investigation included as part of investigation into complaint reference IDSC/01/2013. The investigation is now complete and the outcome will be referred to a Hearings Sub-Committee.
IDSC/08/2013	08/11/2013	Member of the public and a Councillor	Failure to treat with respect, bullying/intimidation and disrepute.	Referred for investigation.	Investigation commenced 05/12/2013. The investigation is now complete and the outcome will be referred to the Investigation and Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
IDSC/09/2013	12/11/2013	Councillor	Failure to treat with respect, bullying/intimidation and disrepute.	Referred for investigation.	Investigation commenced 05/12/2013. The investigation is now complete and the outcome will be referred to the Investigation and Disciplinary Sub-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
ASC/01/2012	16/11/2011	Councillor	Disclosing confidential information, disrepute, using position as a Member to improperly secure an advantage/disadvantage.	26/01/2012 Referred for investigation by former statutory Assessment Sub-Committee.	The investigation was completed on 07/06/2012 under the previous statutory arrangements for standards complaints which applied up until 1 July 2012. As previously reported to the Advisory Committee it had been envisaged that a Hearings Sub-Committee would consider the outcome of the investigation into this complaint and associated procedural issues. However, advice was obtained from leading counsel that these matters should be considered by the IDSC rather than a Hearings Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee and the matter will be referred to the next meeting of the Investigation and Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

