

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Standards Advisory Committee</p> <p>Thursday, 7 December 2023</p>		 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer Director of Legal and Monitoring officer</p>		<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Code of Conduct for Members - Complaint Monitoring</p>		
<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Janet Fasan – Director of Legal & Monitoring Officer</p>	
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>(All Wards)</p>	

Executive Summary

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.

Recommendations:

The Standards (Advisory) Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the content of this report and the information contained in Appendix 1.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council's 'Arrangements for dealing with complaints of breach of the Code of Conduct for Members' (paragraph 11), set out at Appendix C of the Code of Conduct for Members, provide for the Monitoring Officer to report every six months to the Advisory Committee on the number and nature of complaints received and action taken as a result.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The provision of reports at least every six months 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.

3.2 The Advisory Committee last considered a monitoring report at its meeting on 21 September 2023. Since that report there have been five new complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

3.3 Two complaints from the municipal year 2022-23 are still live. One of these is currently being investigated by an external investigator. The second of these is being investigated internally and the report is being prepared. Of the four complaints which were new at the time of the previous report in September 2023, three have been closed and one is approaching the end of the investigation. Five new complaints have been received, of which none have been closed. A breakdown of the complaints is contained in Appendix 1.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

5.2 The Council's arrangements for dealing with complaints of breach of the Code of Conduct for Members were revised in December 2016 to improve the transparency and efficiency of the process.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial implications.

7. LEGAL COMMENTS

7.1 The principal statutory provisions relating to standards of conduct are contained in the Localism Act 2011. Section 27(1) of the 2011 Act provides that the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the authority.

7.2 Sections 27 and 28 of the Localism Act require the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct consistent with the Nolan principles of good governance and to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views must be sought and taken into account before the Council makes any decision about an alleged breach of the Code that has been investigated.

7.3 The matters in this report demonstrate the Local Authority's compliance with the above legislation.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

NONE.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Complaints and investigation monitoring information

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

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

NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A