


Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee Wednesday, 26 June 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Standards Advisory Committee - report on Code of Conduct matters for the year 2023-2024	

Originating Officer(s)	Jill Bayley, Head of Safeguarding and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

This report updates the Advisory Committee on the monitoring information for complaints and investigations relating to alleged breaches Council's Code of Conduct for Members for the municipal year May 2023 – May 2024. It also updates the Advisory Committee on quarterly monitoring information on alleged breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct to the end of May 2024.

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the content of this report and the information contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

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 A 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.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Not applicable.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The Advisory Committee last considered a monitoring report at its meeting on 7 December 2023. Since that report there have been four new complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct made before the end of the municipal year on 30 April 2024. Since the start of the new municipal year on 1 May 2024, there have been two new complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 Of the complaints made between the date of the last Advisory Committee meeting and the end of the municipal year, two have been closed after a decision was made that they did not warrant further investigation.
- 3.4 Both the complaints made since the beginning of the current municipal year remain open.
- 3.5 The two complaints which remained open from the municipal year 2022-3 at the time of the last Advisory Committee have both been closed. The complaint from the early part of the municipal year 2023-4 has also been closed. The only complaints which remain open are the four recent ones, as set out above.
- 3.6 A breakdown of the complaints which were live in the municipal year 2023-4 is contained in Appendix 1. This breakdown is accurate as at 30 April 2024. A breakdown of the complaints from the municipal year 2024-5 (accurate as at 31 May 2024) is contained in Appendix 2.

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.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the noting of the complaints report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

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 – Breakdown of complaints live during the municipal year 2023-4.
- Appendix 2 – Breakdown of complaints live from 1 May 2024 – 31 May 2024.

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