

## COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2019

### REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

#### REGULATION OF MEMBERS CONDUCT

##### EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

##### PURPOSE

To advise Members on the number of complaints received for the period 01 May 2018 until 30 April 2019 in relation to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct arising from implementation of Part 1 Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 which introduced provisions to assist with the regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Members endorse the findings of the contents of the report.

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the establishment of the new Code of Conduct in July 2012 the new Standards regime has been well received by Members. In the year from 01 May 2018 until 30 April 2019, members have maintained high standards of conduct and abided within the rules regarding interests, declaration and predetermination. Accordingly I can advise that in the period from 01 May 2018 to 30 April 2018, five initial complaints were received. Three complaints have been investigated and were resolved and no breaches of the Code of Conduct were made. Two complaints are unresolved at this time and are under investigation.

An outstanding complaint made in 2016, has been resolved and was reported to Council in December 2018.

##### OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

##### RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The operation of the arrangements relating to Standards of Conduct does not normally have any additional resource implications for the Authority, however the process of investigation does have minor financial implications when it is necessary to utilise external support. During the year the total spend was £6643 which was met from existing budgets

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

Effective arrangements to deal with complaints provides the mitigating action necessary to ensure that the Authority meets its statutory obligations under the Localism Act 2011.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The arrangements ensure that the staff of the Council and the citizens of Tamworth benefit from a robust, open and transparent complaints process.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Localism Act 2011 repealed Section 55 of the Local Government Act 2000 which provided the previous Standards regime. There still remains a requirement to deal with conduct issues and associated case-work. Accordingly the Audit and Governance Committee membership was increased and its remit was extended to deal with regulation of Members Conduct. In addition two Independent Persons were appointed in June 2014 to assist the process albeit such persons are not members of the Committee.

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

Angela Struthers, Head of Audit & Governance and Monitoring Officer

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Localism Act 2011  
Code of Conduct for Members and arrangements for dealing with complaints

## **APPENDICES**

None