

COUNCIL

5 JUNE 2014

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

REGULATION OF MEMBERS CONDUCT

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

To advise Members on the number of complaints received for the period 01 May 2013 until 30 April 2014 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

Members are requested to 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 2013 until 30 April 2014 members have maintained high standards of conduct and abided with the rules regarding interests, declarations and predetermination. Accordingly I can confirm that in the period from 01 May 2013 until to 30 April 2014 no complaints were received.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The operation of the arrangements relating to Standards of Conduct does not have any additional resource implications for the Authority, however the process of investigation would have financial implications as it would be necessary to utilise external support in such circumstances.

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.

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The Localism Act 2011 repealed Section 55 of the Local Government Act 2000 which provided the previous Standards regime.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 an Independent Person was appointed to assist the process albeit such person is not a member of the Committee.

REPORT AUTHOR

For further information please contact Jane M Hackett, Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer on Extn: 258

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Localism Act 2011

Code of Conduct for Members and arrangements for dealing with complaints

APPENDICES

None