

Title of meeting:	Governance & Audit & Standards Committee
Date of meeting:	24 January 2024
Subject:	Report on complaints received into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by Members of the Council for the calendar year 2023
Report by:	City Solicitor
Wards affected:	N/A
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update Members of the Committee in relation to complaints which have been progressed within the calendar year 2023 and which allege that Councillors may have breached the Code of Conduct.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Committee note the report.
- 2.2 It is recommended that Members of the Committee consider whether any further action is required by them.
- 2.3 It is recommended that Members of the Committee place on record their thanks to the Independent Persons.

3 Background

- 3.1 Upon acceptance of office, all Councillors undertake to comply with the Code of Conduct. In the event that a Councillor may have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, a complaint may be made. The City Solicitor, as the Council's Monitoring Officer, is appointed to receive such complaints. The complaints are then considered in accordance with the guidance provided under the Local Government Act 2000.
- 3.2 The City Solicitor, as requested by the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee, maintains records on the progress of complaints and each year produces a report to this Committee. This year's report is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.3 The Monitoring Officer has, in this report, detailed the nature of the complaints, but is constrained by the information which can be provided in an open report, to protect the identity of the Subject Member(s), particularly in those cases where the Sub-Committee has decided that the Code has not been breached. In the

circumstances the Monitoring Officer advises that if Members require more detailed information they should seek it from the Monitoring Officer prior to the Committee meeting or during the meeting. If the latter, the meeting will be moved into exempt session.

- 3.4 After having considered Appendix A and Appendix B, Members are asked to decide whether there are any matters of concern or whether further action is required by the Committee or City Solicitor.

4 Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 To make Members of the Committee aware of the current position with regard to complaints and ensure that appropriate action is taken.

5 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

- 5.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 The City Solicitor's comments are included in this report.

7 Director of Finance's comments:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

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City Solicitor

- Appendices:**
Appendix A - Schedule of Complaints
Appendix B - Local Assessment Criteria

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972
The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location