

Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

17 January 2024

Monitoring Officer's Report

Report by: Monitoring Officer

Officer Contact:

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Purpose

To update members on the current position in relation to standards complaints and the parish tier register of interests.

Recommendations

- 1. To note the current statistical information as to complaints made and agree this should be published on the Council's website as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2. To note the position in relation to parish tier register of interests.

1. Standards Complaints

1.1. The Appendix to this report sets out the latest statistical data related to standards complaints.

- 1.2. Members will note that there have been 2 complaints since the May 2023 elections. All previous outstanding complaints received during the previous term of office were concluded prior to the elections.
- 1.3. Subject to any questions raised, the Committee is asked to confirm that this information should be published as set out in Recommendation 1.
- 1.4. In relation to the report to the previous committee meeting concerning parish tier register of interests, officers are pleased to report that all outstanding parish tier forms have been received and uploaded to the website.
- 1.5. Two parish tier councillor training sessions were completed in December. The last one was recorded so that any councillors who were unable to attend the session can view this.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statistical information regarding complaints made

Background papers: Nil

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: These are set out in the report

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees: None

Relevant Policies and Strategies: Complaints Procedure

Agenda Item 6

Appendix 1

Standards Enquiries and Investigations Statistics – Localism Act 2011

November 2023 – to January 2024

| Status of Complaint Categories | Total No. | Case No. | City, Parish tier Councillor | Date Issue First Raised | Alleged Breach or Issue Raised | Current Position |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. No formal complaint or withdrawn | 0 | | | | | |
| 2. No further action required after consultation with one of the Independent Persons | 2 | 7/23 8/23 | Parish tier Parish tier | 2/10/23 2/11/23 | Alleged failure to include certain interests in completed register of interests form Allegations in relation to social media post | Other action - Councillor asked to update their ROI and attend training both of which were completed. NFA necessary and now closed. No further action – unlikely acting in official capacity |
| 3. Not able to legally pursue complaint | 0 | | | | | |
| 4. Complaint on hold | 0 | | | | | |
| 5. Decision as to appropriate | 0 | | | | | |

| Status of Complaint Categories | Total No. | Case No. | City, Parish tier Councillor | Date Issue First Raised | Alleged Breach or Issue Raised | Current Position |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| action still awaited | | | | | | |
| 6. Complaints being investigated | 0 | | | | | |
| Total | 2 | | | | | |

Formal Complaint Outcomes

| | Case No. and Councillor | Committee Date and Decision | Date Issue First Raised | Current Position |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Outcome of Investigations | | | | |
| Other Action | | | | |