

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: 6 MARCH 2019

TITLE OF REPORT UPDATE - COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS

Report of: Monitoring Officer

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the cases relating to the Members' Code of Conduct considered by the Monitoring Officer in 2017/18, attached at Appendix I.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the information at Appendix I be noted.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Persons, considered complaints against Hart District Councillors and Parish/Town Councillors.
- 3.2 It should be noted, the Localism Act gives the Monitoring Officer no direct authority over the actions of a Parish or Town Council, with no remit to pass comment on the manner in which the Town or Parish Council chooses to conduct its business. The remit of the Monitoring Officer extends solely in dealing with complaints associated with allegations that individual members have breached the Town or Parish Council's adopted Code of Conduct, and in the case of the Councillors, make recommendation to the Parish or Town Council on how it might choose to proceed in light of any recommendations.

4 CONCLUSION

That the information be noted.

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APPENDIX

Appendix I - Summary of Complaints

Appendix I

Date	Councillor / Parish	Complaint Summary & Findings
March 2017	Cllr Murr, Yateley TC	Complaint regarding conduct in a personal setting. Disputed facts. Finding - no Code of Conduct breach as not acting in official capacity.
July 17	Cllrs Hale and Warboys, Odiham PC	Internal staff related grievance issue. Finding - no Code of Conduct breach.
Nov 2018 (2 complaints)	Cllrs Oliver and Schofield, Fleet TC	Complaint regarding conduct at a Fleet Town Council meeting towards another FTC Councillor. Finding - inappropriate behaviour by Councillor Oliver. Apologies had been made.
Nov 2018	Cllr Delaney, HDC	Complaint regarding failure to disclose pecuniary interest. Finding - no action as the matter subject to the complaint fell outside the proper arrangements for dealing with complaints