

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Standards Advisory Committee

DATE: 18th June 2014

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PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITY – CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Purpose of Report

This report updates members of the Standards Advisory Committee on the activity undertaken by the Council's Monitoring Officer in relation to complaints received under the Code of Conduct.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The delivery of the Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities is dependent on good governance arrangements being in place in order that the Council has a transparent and accountable process for effective decision-making. This is underpinned by the Code of Conduct, which forms the bedrock of the conduct regime for Members in ensuring ethical behaviour and governance of the highest order is maintained.

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of this report.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The Council is under a statutory duty to adopt a code of conduct maintain a register of members' interests.

(c) Equalities Impact Assessment

It is important to ensure measures taken under the standards regime do not impact disproportionately on any group. The Monitoring Officer retains a detailed list of subject Members and carries out a periodic audit check to ensure that

application of the regime is equitable across specific groups of members having regard to race, gender or political group.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 In its approved complaints process, the Council has agreed arrangements to delegate to the Monitoring Officer the initial decision on whether a complaint requires investigation, subject to consultation with the Independent Person. In appropriate cases the Monitoring Officer may seek to resolve the complaint informally without the need for a formal investigation. When a complaint is referred for investigation, the Investigating Officer's report will be reviewed by the Monitoring Officer, who will either send it for determination to a Standards Determination Sub-Committee set up for the purpose, or decide that no further action is required.
- 5.2 The following table contains a summary of the complaints received in the calendar year 2014 to date:

Ref	Subject Member – Borough / Parish	Complainant	Area of Code	Outcome
2014/01	Borough Councillor	Borough Councillor	2.3 – bringing office into disrepute	Referred for investigation. No breach of Code found – no further action.
2014/02	Borough Councillor	Member of staff	2.1 – failure to treat others with respect	Referred for investigation. Investigating Officer's report awaited.

6. Conclusion

The Committee will note that just two complaints within a period of 5½ months is relatively low. There is an impact on officer time/resources in dealing with complaints, in particular where they are referred for investigation

7. Background Papers

None.