

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	21 MARCH 2024	4
ISSUES RAISED WITH THE MONITORING OFFICER			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The Monitoring Officer has been appointed as Proper Officer to receive allegations of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct regarding councillors, town and parish councillors and co-opted members. The Monitoring Officer has delegated authority, after consultation with the 'Independent Person', to determine whether an allegation of members' misconduct requires investigation and arrange as such an investigation.

The Monitoring Officer should seek resolution of complaints without formal investigation wherever practicable and she has the discretion to refer matters to the Standards Committee where she feels it is inappropriate for her to take a decision on a referral for investigation. She should also periodically prepare reports for the Standards Committee on the discharge of this function. This report fulfils this by keeping members informed as of the number and general nature of matters brought to her attention.

It is a point of clarification that there are several stages in dealing with allegations of member misconduct. Some matters are brought to the attention of the Monitoring Officer without merit. In other instances where a breach may have been considered to arise, and in line with agreed procedures, wherever possible the Monitoring Officer should seek the resolution of complaints without the need for formal investigation.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Monitoring Officer.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

Periodic reports to the Standards Committee are brought to ensure that members of the Standards Committee have an overview of the volume and nature of complaints arising.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Tracy Manning, Monitoring Officer Tel: 01253 658521

INFORMATION

1. The tables below shows the nature of the allegations of misconduct made since May 2023 to date. The nature of complaints can be wide-ranging in subject matter and alleged breaches refer to varying aspects of the differing Codes of Conduct in place. However, they can be broadly summarised as either being related to failure to treat others with respect, bringing the authority into disrepute or interest related matters.

PARISH MATTERS	Number Received	Closed	Resolved Informally	Referred for Investigation
Failure to treat others with respect	7	3	1	3
Bringing the authority into disrepute	1	1	0	0
Interests	0	0	0	0

BOROUGH MATTERS	Number Received	Closed	Resolved Informally	Referred for Investigation
Failure to treat others with respect	0	0	0	0
Bringing office or council into disrepute	4	4	0	0
Interests	2	1	0	0