

A REVIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2016

To: **Constitution and Ethics Committee**

Meeting Date: **24 November 2016**

From: **LGSS Director of Law, Property & Governance and Monitoring Officer**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To brief the Constitution and Ethics Committee on the number and nature of the complaints received about Members under the Code of Conduct from 16 September 2016 to 15 November 2016.**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that the Constitution and Ethics Committee note the contents of this report.**

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Localism Act (“the Act”) places a statutory duty on the County Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst its Members and co-opted Members. This includes the obligation on the County Council to have in place a Code of Conduct setting out the standard of conduct expected of Members when acting in their capacity as County Councillors.
- 1.2. The requirements of the Act are supported by Article 9 of the Constitution which also requires the Constitution & Ethics Committee to monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct and the complaints received under it.
- 1.3. This report serves to provide the Constitution & Ethics Committee with an overview of the complaints received under the Code of Conduct from 16 September 2016 to 15 November 2016.

2. OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

- 2.1. From 16 September 2016 to 15 November 2016, two new complaints against a Member were received by the Monitoring Officer. These are still awaiting an initial assessment. Of the seven complaints already open as at 16 September 2016 two were concluded on the basis of a local resolution. Two continue to be investigated and the three matters on hold are now being progressed to an initial assessment.
- 2.2. Details of complaints which have been concluded since 16 September 2016 are set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.3. The publication of details of complaints only takes place after conclusion of the complaint to reduce speculation on limited information, ensure there is no compromise of any assessment or investigation and that the Data Protection Act 1998 is complied with.

Source Documents	Location
Decision Notice – Complaint against Councillor Clapp	Held by LGSS Law Limited Ref L-22870
Decision Notice – Complaint against Councillor Clapp	Held by LGSS Law Limited Ref L-22852

APPENDIX 1

Report to the Constitution and Ethics Committee

Overview of complaints made against Members

13 September 2016 to 15 November 2016

Complaint against:	Cllr Paul Clapp
Date of Complaint:	21 August 2016
Complainant:	Mrs Jennifer Snow
Allegation:	Cllr Clapp breached the Code of Conduct by allegedly being rude and insulting towards Walsoken Parish Council at a Parish Council meeting on 12 July 2016
Current Status:	Concluded
Outcome:	The Independent Person concluded that there was a potential breach of the Code of Conduct. Local resolution was an appropriate remedy and a letter would be sent to the Cllr
Date of final decision:	29 September 2016

Complaint against:	Cllr Paul Clapp
Date of Complaint:	11 August 2016
Complainant:	Mr Andy Houghton
Allegation:	Cllr Clapp breached the Code of Conduct by allegedly being rude and insulting towards Walsoken Parish Council at a Parish Council meeting on 12 July 2016
Current Status:	Concluded
Outcome:	The Independent Person concluded that there was a potential breach of the Code of Conduct. Local resolution was an appropriate remedy and a letter would be sent to the Cllr
Date of final decision:	29 September 2016