

Agenda Item No: 7

A REVIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

To: **Constitution and Ethics Committee**

Meeting Date: **26 September 2017**

From: **LGSS Director of Law & 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 13 June 2017 to 14 September 2017**

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 and 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 and Ethics Committee with an overview of the complaints received under the Code of Conduct from 13 June 2017 to 14 September 2017.

2. OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

- 2.1. Since 13 June 2017 two new complaints against a Member have been received by the Monitoring Officer. One of these complaints has been concluded. As at the date of writing this report the second remains open but it is expected to be concluded as at the date of the committee meeting. Details of the second complaint will therefore be included in the next report.
- 2.2. Details of the complaint which has been concluded since 13 June 2017 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 Hunt	Held by LGSS Law Limited, Priory House, SG17 5TQ, Ref COR002/081; decision notices are also published on the Council's website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/contact-us/complain-about-a-councillor-or-co-opted-member/

APPENDIX 1

Complaint against:	Cllr Hunt
Date of Complaint:	26 July 2017
Complainant:	Mr Cranfield
Allegation:	Inappropriate behaviour during a parish Council meeting bring office or authority into disrepute and preventing access to information
Current Status:	Concluded
Outcome:	The Independent Person concluded that there was insufficient evidence to show any breach or potential breach of paragraph 2.2(e) of the Code of Conduct (bringing office or authority into disrepute) and no breach of paragraph 3.2 of the Code of Conduct (preventing access to information)
Date of final decision:	11 September 2017