

ACTION FROM 24th SEPTEMBER 2019 COMMITTEE MEETING - VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS ON THE ACCOUNTS

The Vice-Chairman asked Officers when they would consider a complainant to be vexatious as the Council was receiving these complaints every year and as a result incurred considerable additional costs. The Head of Integrated Finance stated that he would take this away to the Monitoring Officer for legal advice.

Response

Certain matters raised in relation to the Statement of Accounts with the external auditor are considered as objections, under the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014. The Council is aware of three valid or potentially valid objections to its accounts under this statute. One in relation to each year 2018/19, 2017/18 and 2016/17. As it stands, the auditor has not reached a concluded view on any of these objections, or more recently been able to commence consideration until the predecessor auditor has concluded on the previous year objection.

The next actions on the objections are matters for the external auditor. The Council has not considered the objections from a vexatious perspective while this is ongoing.