

**STANDARDS AND ETHICS  
COMMITTEE**

**22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL  
SERVICES & MONITORING OFFICER**

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**MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS – QUARTER 2 OF  
2017/18**

**Reason for Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an update on complaints made during Quarter 2 of 2017/18 against Members of the Council alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

**Background**

2. The Committee receives regular reports from the Monitoring Officer on complaints made against Members of the Council alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct. These reports provide information to assist the Committee to discharge its functions, in particular:
  - i. To monitor and scrutinise the ethical standards of the Authority, its Members, employees and any associated providers of the Authority's services, and to report to the Council on any matters of concern; and
  - ii. To advise the Council on the effective implementation of the Code including such matters as the training of Members and employees on the Code's application,  
  
(paragraphs (a) and (c) respectively, of the Committee's terms of reference).
3. Complaints received during Quarter 4 of 2016/17 and Quarter 1 of 2017/18 were considered at the Committee's last meeting, in September 2017.

**Issues**

4. One complaint alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct was received by the Monitoring Officer during Quarter 2 of the current financial year (2017/18).

5. The table below shows the type of complaint received in Quarter 2 of this year and provides comparative figures for the previous 4 quarters.

	Q2 Jul, Aug, Sept 2016	Q3 Oct, Nov, Dec 2016	Q4 Jan, Feb, Mar 2017	Q1 Apr, May, Jun 2017	Q2 Jul, Aug, Sept 2018
Total	3	4	7	4	1
Member on Member	0	2	2	2	0
Public on Member	3	2	5	2	1
Officer on Member	0	0	0	0	0
Community Councillors	0	0	0	0	0

6. The single complaint received during Quarter 2 alleged that a Member was the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation being undertaken by the South Wales Police. The Monitoring Officer immediately sought advice from the Council's Assistant Director for Children's Services in respect of safeguarding concerns arising from the allegations. Enquiries were made to ensure that all appropriate safeguarding measures were in place. The Police subsequently confirmed that a thorough investigation had been undertaken but had not found any evidence to corroborate the allegations, and therefore the case had been closed.
7. The Committee will note that the single complaint received during Quarter 2 represents a significant decrease from the number of complaints received during previous quarters.

### **Legal Implications**

8. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### **Financial Implications**

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **Recommendation**

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services, and Monitoring Officer**

13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Background papers

Standards and Ethics Committee report 'Member Code of Conduct Complaints, Quarter 4 of 2016/17' and 'Update on Complaints received during Quarter 1 of 2017/18', 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.