



## **Joint Standards Complaints Committee 17 July 2019**

### **Activity Report of the Monitoring Officer**

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#### **Purpose of report**

This regular report provides a brief update on Monitoring Officer activity since the last meeting.

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#### **1.0 Monitoring Officer Enquiries and Complaints**

- 1.1 Since the meeting of this Committee on 20 March this year there has been a slight increase in the overall level of enquires in relation to declarations of interest and parish council governance questions.
- 1.2 There have also been five new potential complaints, two of which so far have resulted in formal complaints. A further nine formal complaints have also been made, split equally between ENC and Town and Parish Councillors. Four of these have completed the initial assessment stage with all being referred to investigation. The remaining five are still in the Initial Assessment Stage and it is hoped to provide a verbal update on the outcome of some of these at the meeting. Summaries are in the process of being posted to the council's web-page.
- 1.3 It did not prove possible to complete the outstanding Hearing Complaint as noted at the last Committee. A verbal report on the current position will be presented to the Committee.

#### **2.0 Councillor Turnover and Training**

- 2.1 Due to workload pressures it was not possible to hold the planned training event in June for councillors elected so far in 2019. Given the forthcoming changes in staffing, including the retirement of the current Monitoring Officer, it is proposed that future efforts are now focuses on working with NCALC to meet the needs of new councillors elected in the May 2020 elections as this will remain within the discretion of this council's Monitoring Officer.
- 2.2 It should also be noted that whilst the Secretary of State has now agreed that the new Unitary Councils will not start to deliver services until April 2021, it is anticipated that the elections to the Shadow Councils will take place in May 2020. The requirement for Induction Training for these new Councillors is being included in the programme for creation of the new Unitary Councils as the Monitoring Officers for the new Councils will not be appointed until after the Elections.

### 3.0 Equality and diversity issues

3.1 There are no known negative equality and diversity issues arising from this paper.

### 4.0 Privacy Impact Implications

4.1 There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

### 5.0 Legal implications

5.1 This report outlines activities undertaken under local arrangements which reflect the Localism Act 2011 and related regulations.

### 6.0 Risk management

6.1 The preparation of this report enables the Committee to maintain an overview of the standards regimen and reduced the risk of non-compliance with legislation.

### 7.0 Resource and Financial implications

7.1 There are no new financial or resource implications arising from this report.

### 8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

### 9.0 Implications for our Customers

9.1 There are no obvious new implications on customers as a result of this report.

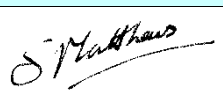
### 10.0 Corporate outcomes

10.1 The work reported here contributes to the Corporate Outcome of Effective Management.

### 11.0 Recommendation

11.1 The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report in terms of monitoring of complaint activity.

*[Reason: to demonstrate active monitoring of the local ethical standards position.]*

<b>Legal</b>	Power:	<b>Localism Act 2011</b>			
	Other considerations:				
<b>Background Papers:</b>					
<b>Person Report:</b>	<b>Originating</b>	Sharn Matthews, Monitoring Officer, ☎ 01832 742108, ✉ smatthews@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk			
Date: 8/7/19					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO 08/07/19</b>		<b>CX</b>	