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

1.0 Monitoring Officer Enquiries and Complaints

1.1 Since the last meeting of this Committee on 15 July 2020 there have continued to be enquiries in relation to Members’ declarations of interest and parish council governance and advice. All have been responded to.

1.2 There have been two new Code of Conduct complaints since the last meeting. One related to the District and one to a Parish Council. After the Initial Assessments both were concluded after consultation with our Independent Persons and Chairman. They will not be passed for Investigations and the complaints have been closed.

1.3 There are five current complaints that are ongoing. These are being dealt with in accordance with usual practices. Four are still awaiting the Investigation Reports to be finalised by the external investigators and dates have been obtained from them as to when these Reports will be received by the Council. The other one is to be dealt with by the Hearings Sub-Committee and a date is being arranged as soon as possible. It should also be noted that one previously reported case was in fact passed to the Police and no further action was necessary as it was resolved and the complainant has not pursued further action.

1.4 The Register of Interests for both ENC Members and its Town and Parish Council Members are kept up to date and changes are made to the website as required for both. A number of changes have been notified during this period.

2.0 Councillor Turnover and Training

2.1 No training has been delivered since the last Committee meeting and over the spring months one to one advice has been provided to members by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officers as required.

2.2 The Local Government Association consultation on the new Model Code of Conduct ran for ten weeks from 8 June to 17 August 2020, with an informal additional deadline running to the end of August. As members are aware, ENC responded to the Consultation within the initial timeframe. There is no indication as to when the new Code will be further consulted on or issued.

2.3 Work continues on the preparations for the Standards regime within the new North Northamptonshire Council. The new Monitoring Officer, Adele Wylie, was appointed by the Shadow Authority on 17 August 2020 and will take up the post prior to vesting day.
3.0 **Vacancy on the Joint Standards Complaints Committee**

3.1 No nominations have been received for the vacancy for a Town and Parish Representative following advertisement via a bulletin to all town and parish councils within East Northamptonshire. As there is only one further scheduled meeting of this Committee prior to vesting day, it is not proposed to undertake a further recruitment exercise.

4.0 **Request for Dispensations**

4.1 None

5.0 **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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

6.0 **Privacy Impact Implications**

6.1 There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

7.0 **Legal Implications**

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

8.0 **Risk Management**

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

9.0 **Resource and Financial Implications**

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

10.0 **Constitutional Implications**

10.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

11.0 **Implications for our Customers**

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

12.0 **Corporate Outcomes**

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

13.0 **Recommendations**

13.1 The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report in terms of monitoring of complaints and other activity.

   [Reason: to demonstrate active monitoring of the local ethical standards position.]
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<th>Legal</th>
<th>Power: Localism Act 2011</th>
<th>Other considerations: Constitution of East Northamptonshire Council</th>
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**Background Papers:**

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**Date:** 30/06/2020

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