

GRIEVANCE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2025

Present:-

Cllr. Maggie Wright (Chairman)

Cllr. Nick Brown

Cllr. Mike Shirley

Cllr. Paul Hartshorn

Officers present:-

Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer

Apologies:-

Cllr. Lee Breckon JP

247. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

248. REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE AND GUIDANCE NOTES

The Chair, Cllr. Maggie Wright invited the Monitoring Officer to present the report.

Following the presentation, Members raised key points that they felt should be addressed in the draft complaint procedure and guidance notes. The key points included:

- There is a noticeable increase in the number of complaints received, including vexatious and contentious complaints.
- More information is required in the guidance notes on how Members will be supported if a complaint is made against them,
- Must make it clearer in the guidance on what the breaches of the Code of Conduct are.
- The addition of a flowchart showing the complaints process will be helpful to both the complainant and subject Member.
- Support for Members who are the subject of complaint should be added, including access to mental health services.
- That the Vexatious and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy be updated and reviewed.
- That the new procedure and guidance notes be launched to bring awareness to Parishes, public and Members.

Members requested to know the number of Parish Councils who had adopted the new Code of Conduct, all Parishes should be encouraged to adopt the current version.

DECISION

That the Code of Conduct Complaint Procedure and Guidance Notes be amended to reflect comments raised at the meeting.

Reason:

To enable officers to update the Code of Conduct complaint procedure and guidance notes to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

249. CASES AND WORK UPDATE

Considered – report of the Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer.

DECISION

That the report be noted.

Reason:

To advise members of the committee of the Code of Conduct complaints received by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with good practice and to demonstrate good governance.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.15 P.M.