

Standards and Governance Committee – 11 September 2024

Title of paper:	Councillor Complaints – Update	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Nancy Barnard, Head of Governance Constitutional.services@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	N/A	
Date of consultation with Executive Member(s) (if relevant)	N/A	
Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication? No		
Relevant Council Plan Outcome:		
Green, Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Living Well in our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>The Committee has a role in monitoring complaints that Councillors or Co-opted Members have breached the Code of Conduct. This report provides a summary of complaints about Councillors dealt with since the last meeting for information.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That the Committee considers and notes the monitoring information.	

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The terms of reference of the Standards and Governance Committee require the Monitoring Officer to submit regular reports on complaints made about councillors to inform any work the Committee might carry out in relation to Councillor Standards and the Code of Conduct.

2. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee's terms of reference place a responsibility on the Committee to consider a Monitoring Officer report on Councillor Complaints. Therefore no other options were considered

3. **Consideration of Risk**

- 3.1 Any risk to the Council will be determined as part of the response to the individual complaint and escalated to this Committee in accordance with the published Complaints procedure.

4. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 4.1 Appendix A to this report summarises the nature and outcome of complaints made against councillors since the last update in April 2024 and provides updates on those not resolved at the point of the last update. Four complaints have been, or are in the process of being, formally investigated due to the nature of those complaints. None have been escalated beyond the local resolution stage of the procedure. None of the complaints reached the formal stage of consideration to date and are either in train or have been resolved informally.

- 4.2 The Committee is asked to note the information contained in the appendix.

5. **Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)**

This report is a monitoring report and has no financial implications.

6. **Legal colleague comments**

- 6.1 Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to "promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority." The arrangements in place in Nottingham are outlined in the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-opted Member (Article 15 of the Constitution) and the agreed procedure for managing complaints that a Councillor or Co-opted Member has breached the Code. Both documents are available on the Council's website: [Councillor Conduct - Nottingham City Council](#).

- 6.2 The legal implications of each complaint have been considered as part of their management.

- 6.3 This report is a requirement of the Standards and Governance Committee's terms of reference and it enables Councillors to monitor the nature of complaints being made and seek assurance that they are being dealt with appropriately.

7. **Other relevant comments**

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. **Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

- 8.1 Not applicable

9. **Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

9.1 Not applicable

10. **Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

10.1 Not applicable

11. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

11.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because the report does not propose a change to council policy or service. Equality matters may be taken into account as part of consideration of individual complaints

12. **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

12.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A DPIA is not required because the report does not propose a change to council policy or service.

13. **Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

13.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A CIA is not required because the report does not propose a change to council policy or service.

14. **List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

14.1 None

15. **Published documents referred to in this report**

15.1 Councillor and Co-Opted Member Code of Conduct (Article 15 of the Constitution and the Councillor Complaints procedure - [Councillor Conduct - Nottingham City Council](#))