

# ITEM 5 - LATE REPORT

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### STANDARDS COMMITTEE

21 September 2015

#### **Complaints Update**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Committee regarding ethical framework complaint activity since the Committee's last meeting in March 2015.

#### **2.0 COMPLAINTS UPDATE**

##### **New complaints**

- 2.1 One new complaint has been received since the last meeting of the Committee:

NYCC/SC/54

- 2.2 The complaint concerned alleged comments about the complainant made by the subject Member at a parish council meeting, which were reported back to the complainant by a member of the public who was present. The complainant alleged that the comments may have been libellous or defamatory and may have breached the Council's Members' Code of Conduct. The matter was resolved informally by the subject Member providing a written apology to the complainant, presenting the apology at a parish council meeting and meeting with the complainant. The matter was formally assessed by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person for Standards, when it was concluded that the actions taken to resolve the matter informally were sufficient, were in the process of resolving the matter appropriately and that no formal action should be taken in relation to the complaint.

##### **Existing complaints**

NYCC/SC/53

- 2.3 This complaint concerned certain alleged comments about Council officers alleged to have been made by the subject member at a public meeting. The complaint was assessed by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person for Standards, when it was concluded that there should be no investigation action, and that the complaint should be resolved informally. The subject member provided a written apology for any offence caused.

##### **Statistics**

- 2.4 For the year 1 April 2015 – 11 September 2015 (the date of writing this report), the Council has received the one complaint referred to above in paragraph 2.2 of this report.
- 2.5 Members will be kept informed of developments.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 That the Committee notes the current position on complaints received.

BARRY KHAN  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents:

None

County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

11 September 2015