

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 March 2022

Complaints Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee regarding ethical framework complaint activity.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A standing report regarding complaint activity under the ethical framework is brought to each meeting of the Standards Committee.

3.0 COMPLAINTS

New Complaints

- 3.1 There has been one new complaint received since the last Complaints Update report to the Committee:

NYCC/SC/79

An anonymous complaint was submitted through the Council's corporate complaints system and referred to the Monitoring Officer. The complaint concerned alleged remarks regarding cyclists made by the Subject Member during a meeting, which were subsequently reported in a local newspaper and in the media, and which the complainant alleged to be offensive. The complaint was assessed by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person for Standards when it was concluded that no action should be taken in relation to the complaint as there was no evidence to support a finding of a breach of the Code. The Subject Member had apologised to those whom his comments had caused offence and the anonymous complaint did not fall within the criteria for investigation or other action as there was no evidence to indicate an exceptionally serious or significant matter, there was no significant public interest in taking the complaint forward and there was therefore no merit in referring the complaint for investigation or other action.

Existing complaints

NYCC/SC/77

- 3.2 This complaint is currently under consideration by the Monitoring Officer and has been referred for investigation. Further details will be reported to the Committee at a future meeting.

4.0 STATISTICS

- 4.1 For the year 1 April 2021 to date, the Council has received two formal standards complaints (NYCC/SC/78 and 79 referred to above).
- 4.2 Members will be kept updated.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 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

3 March 2022