



Haringey Council

Report for:	Standards Committee	Item Number:	
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Title:	Code of Conduct for Members - Complaints 2013-14 Monitoring Report
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Report Authorised by:	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer. <i>Bernie Ryan</i>
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Lead Officer:	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.
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Ward(s) affected: N/A	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions: N/A
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1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report sets out summary information about complaints received by the Monitoring Officer that a Member had breached the Members Code of Conduct. The report relates to complaints received during 2013-14.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

That Members note the report.

4. Alternative options considered

N/A

5. Background information



5.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, including monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5.2 In 2013-14 the Monitoring Officer received 8 complaints that a member had breached the Code, 3 of which related to the same councillor arising from the same incident but made by three different people.

5.3 Of the 8 complaints:

- 3 were rejected by the Assessment sub-committee and no further action was taken;
- 4 (including the three arising about one member from the same incident) were referred by the Assessment sub-committee for investigation;
- 1 was withdrawn following an apology by the member

5.4 Of those referred for investigation, one went to a Hearing sub-committee and the Member was found to have breached the Code. The investigation in relation to the member with 3 complaints against them was discontinued following the 2014 local elections when he was not re-elected. One additional hearing took place during the year following an investigation although the original complaint was made in the previous municipal year. The outcome of that Hearing was a finding of breach of the Code of Conduct.

5.5 Where appropriate, any lessons learned from complaints are considered by the Standards Committee and/or Monitoring Officer and any improvements that might assist members are implemented (e.g. in training). Lessons learned from both hearings and other complaints have been incorporated into the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints against members.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report

7. Comments of the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and legal implications

7.1 These are included within the body of the report.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

N/A

9. Head of Procurement Comments



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N/A

10. Policy Implications

N/A

11. Reasons for Decision

- 11.1 The Standards Committee supports the Council in discharging its duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members. It is good practice to periodically review complaints and consider any lessons that may be learned.

12. Use of Appendices

N/A

13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Legal Services file

