



Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

18 October 2023

Monitoring Officer's Report

Report by:
Monitoring Officer

Officer Contact:
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Purpose

To update members on the current position in relation to standards complaints, city councillor training in relation to the Code of Conduct. Governance Committee member training and an update in relation to Best Practice Recommendation 15.

Recommendations

1. To note the current statistical information as to complaints made and agree this should be published on the Council's website as set out in Appendix 1.
 2. To note the position in relation to councillor and governance committee training.
 3. To note that meetings between Senior officers and Group Leaders have resumed.
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1. Standards Complaints & training

- 1.1. The Appendix to this report sets out the latest statistical data related to standards complaints.
- 1.2. Members will note that there has been 1 new complaint since the May 2023 elections. All previous outstanding complaints received during the previous term of office were concluded prior to the elections.
- 1.3. Subject to any questions raised, the Committee is asked to confirm that this information should be published as set out in Recommendation 1.
- 1.4. In relation to code of conduct training, all 57 serving city councillors have attended code of conduct training. Following a recent meeting with parish tier clerks and a request for further code of conduct training to be provided arrangements are being made for two further parish tier councillor sessions to be provided.
- 1.5. As committee members will know training was provided for the Governance Committee after the last meeting in June. At that meeting two parish tier representatives were appointed to the committee, one of whom was previously a member of the committee and so has already been appropriately trained. The Monitoring Officer is planning to undertake training for the new parish tier representative(s) prior to the October Governance Committee meeting and will provide a verbal update in this regard at the meeting.
- 1.6. The 2019 report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life Best Practice recommendation 15 suggests that senior officers should meet with Group Leaders. This was implemented prior to the pandemic and has recently been re-instated.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statistical information regarding complaints made

Background papers: Nil

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: These are set out in the report

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees: None

Relevant Policies and Strategies:
Complaints Procedure

Standards Enquiries and Investigations Statistics – Localism Act 2011

April 2023 – to October 2023

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
1. No formal complaint or withdrawn	0					
2. No further action required after consultation with one of the Independent Persons	0					
3. Not able to legally pursue complaint	0					
4. Complaint on hold	0					

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
5. Decision as to appropriate action still awaited	1	7/23	Parish tier	2/10/23	Alleged failure to include certain interests in completed register of interests form	Initial assessment pending
6. Complaints being investigated	0					
Total	0					

Formal Complaint Outcomes

	Case No. and Councillor	Committee Date and Decision	Date Issue First Raised	Current Position
Outcome of Investigations				
Other Action				