

PERIODIC REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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Director (Law and Governance)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This periodic report is to advise Councillors and Committee members of standards issues, including complaints and investigations since the Monitoring Officer last reported to the Standards Committee on 11 December 2018.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Update on Complaints

- 3.1 The following tables set out formal complaints which have been made since 1 January 2019 and complaints which were made in 2018 and which are still to be concluded. There are currently no complaints concerning Milton Keynes Council Members and complaints concerning 7 Parish Council Members some which are multiple complaints by different complainants against the same Councillor (see Annex).
- 3.2 We have had one complaint which on appeal by the Complainant was referred to the Sub-Committee during this period (on 12 February 2019). The Sub-Committee decided to quash part of the original decision and that part of the decision will now be re-considered by a further Sub-Committee.
- 3.3 In arriving at their judgement on complaints received the Monitoring Officer applied the following criteria:
- (a) Does the allegation reveal a prima facie breach of the code?
 - (b) Is there a reasonable prospect that the allegation would be upheld?
 - (c) Is the matter complained of trivial?
 - (d) Is the allegation merely an attempt to initiate an investigation to 'embarrass' the Councillor, for e.g. political purposes?
 - (e) Is the matter essentially a dispute or difference of opinion between Members?

