

Body: **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Date: **25 June 2014**

Subject: **Members and Standards: an update**

Report Of: **LAWYER TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER**

Ward(s) All

Purpose To assist the Audit and Governance Committee in fulfilling its obligations in relation to member standards.

Recommendations: That the Committee note the following:

- The information supplied to it regarding complaints against members
- Other relevant information including an update on Standards-related matters

Contact: Victoria Simpson, Lawyer to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Telephone 01323 415018 or internally on extension 5018.
E-mail address: victoria.simpson@eastbourne.gov.uk

1.0 Background

1.1 Members will recall their longstanding invitation to the Monitoring Officer to provide quarterly updates on Standards-related matters.

2.0 Complaints

2.1 No new formal complaints against members have been received in during this quarter. As none remain outstanding from previous quarters, no complaints await determination at time of writing.

3.1 Dispensations

3.2 No dispensations have been applied for or issued since the last quarterly Report.

4.1 Member training

4.1 No dedicated in-house training on Standards-related issues has taken place during this quarter.

5.0 Update on Standards related matters

5.1 At the time of the last quarterly report, members were appraised of such matters as the views expressed by some commentators on the current standards regime in local authorities and the watching brief imposed by the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The only new developments at time of writing concern developments involving other individual authorities and where relevant, these will inform the next round of training on standards delivered to all members.

6.0 Consultation

6.1 There has been no consultation.

7.0 Resource Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial

8.1 None.

9.0 Staffing

9.1 None.

10.0 Conclusion

10.1 Authorities must have in place arrangements to monitor member conduct and to promote effective decision-making. It also a requirement that steps be taken to promote high standards of conduct. This report aims to assist this Committee in discharging its responsibilities in this regard.

Victoria Simpson

LAWYER TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

Previous reports and minutes of the Committee and Panel.

Articles in the Local Government Lawyer

ACSeS bulletins