

	<p style="text-align: center;">Group Leaders Panel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 October 2014</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Delegations Report</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Deputy Monitoring Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Jessica Farmer, Deputy Monitoring Officer , Jessica.farmer@harrow.gov.uk, 0208 424 1889</p>

Summary

This report summarises for Members the number of Member complaints received since the last Group Leaders Panel and the decisions made by the Deputy Monitoring officer.

Recommendations

1. That the Group Leaders Panel notes the delegations used to reject any formal complaints made under the Member Code of Conduct during the period from 3 September 2014 to 20 October 2014.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Since the last report to the Group Leaders Panel on the 3 September 2014, there has been one complaint considered in relation to the conduct of a Councillor.
- 1.2 The complaint was received on 14 August 2014. After consultation with the independent person the Deputy Monitoring Officer decided under paragraph a(i) of Appendix 2 of the Member's Code of Conduct that the complaint should not go through to a formal process and was formally rejected. The complainant and the subject Member have been informed of the decision.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 This information report is a requirement of the Constitution. There is a requirement to report such decisions to the next Group Leaders Panel.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Members Code of Conduct provides the standards of behaviour for those holding a public office and is a necessary requirement of any system of governance. Good governance is essential to delivery of all Council priorities.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Time spent by the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 The Members' Code of Conduct provides for complaints to be rejected without going through a formal process following consultation with the Independent Person. On 5 November 2013 Council agreed an amendment to the Code of Conduct that any such rejected complaint will be formally reported to the next appropriate meeting of the Group Leaders Panel.
- 5.3.2 The Localism Act 2011 section 27 (1) requires that a local authority must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority.

5.3.3 Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 subsection (6)(a) and (b) requires that a relevant authority has arrangements under which allegations can be investigated, and has arrangements under which decisions on allegations can be made.

5.3.4 Under section 28 (7)(a) of the Localism Act requires that the authority must put into place arrangements for the appointment by the authority of at least one independent person whose views are to be sought, and taken into account, by the authority before it makes a decision on an allegation that it has decided to investigate.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 By having the Group Leaders Panel receive reports on a regular basis regarding complaints received under the Members Code of Conduct provides oversight of Member complaints.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 This report is a factual report based on a requirement as stipulated in the Constitution. As a result of this report there are no differential outcomes expected for those with protected characteristics. An equalities impact assessment has not been considered necessary.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 Consultation is required with an Independent Person before a decision is taken to reject a complaint.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.