



## Constitution and General Purposes Committee

7 February 2022

<b>Title</b>	<b>Code of Conduct Allegations 2020/21</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Monitoring Officer
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A – Code of Conduct Allegations – 2020/21
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Jessica Farmer, Monitoring Officer, <a href="mailto:jessica.farmer@barnet.gov.uk">jessica.farmer@barnet.gov.uk</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
This report updates the Constitution and General Purposes Committee on complaints the Monitoring Officer has received about member conduct during 2020/21	

## Officer Recommendation

**That the Committee note the update as set out in Appendix A**

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Members' Code of Conduct requires that the Monitoring Officer submits a report to the Committee at annual intervals to inform the Committee about complaints which have been received and not investigated and complaints which have been investigated.

### 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To comply with the constitutional requirement to report to the Committee.

2.2 To ensure that the Committee discharges its duty to: promote and maintain high standards of conduct for Members; review the application of the Code of Conduct for Members' to Member complaints; and maintain an overview on ethical standards in general across the authority.

### **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 Barnet Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards.

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

5.2.1 There are no resources implications in the context of this report.

#### **5.3 Social Value**

5.3.1 Not applicable

#### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 Members' Code of Conduct – Procedure for dealing with Complaints, Section 7, Reports – states "The Monitoring Officer will submit a report to the Constitution and General Purposes Committee at annual intervals to inform the Committee about complaints which have been received during the year."

5.4.2 Article 7, Terms of Reference of Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships – the terms of reference of the Constitution and General Purposes Committee includes "To consider and make recommendations to the Council on: (i) how it can satisfy the continuing duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for Members; (ii) on the Code of Conduct for Members; and (iii) on ethical standards in general across the authority."

5.4.3 The Council's arrangements under which complaints about Member conduct are investigated and decided comply with the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011. All complaints are dealt with in consultation with one of the council's Independent Persons that the council has to appoint under the Localism Act.

#### **5.5 Risk Management**

5.5.1 Failure to deal with Member complaints in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct could have reputational implications for the Council.

## **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 It is a breach of the Member Code of Conduct to discriminate against people on the grounds of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age. Members have been provided with training in this area.

## **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 Not applicable

## **5.8 Insight**

5.8.1 Not applicable.

## **5.9 Corporate Parenting**

5.9.1 No implications identified in the context of this report.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.