

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

2 October 2014

Complaints Summary 2013/14

Report No ADGMO/27/14/MK/SS of the Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To advise of details of complaints received in 2013/14.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 The Committee previously resolved that the Monitoring Officer be requested to prepare a detailed report each year on all complaints received regarding allegations that members had breached the Members' Code of Conduct. This was to be done once all the necessary investigations had been completed.
- 1.2 There were a total of four complaints in 2013/14 that members had breached the Code of Conduct. The attached appendix sets out the details of each complaint. Officers have taken care not to reveal any identities.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 To enable members to monitor trends in complaints received against members.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 None.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 None.

5 Implications

None.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the report summarising member complaints in 2013/14 be noted.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	None.
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	None.

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
A	Details of member complaints 2013/14
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	
Report Author	Contact Number
M Kane	7753

Appendix A: Details of member complaints 2013/14

Complainant	Subject member	Details	Outcome
Parish Councillor	County Councillor	The complainant alleged that the subject member had been disrespectful to the clerk during a parish council meeting.	The matter did not relate to the member acting in his capacity as a District or parish councillor therefore NEDDC had no locus to investigate. Following consultation with the Independent Person (IP), no further action was taken except to refer the case on to the relevant body.
Member of the public	Parish Councillor	The complainant alleged that she witnessed the member swearing and verbally berating her husband while she was sat in the member's back garden with his wife. The Parish Council had apologised to the complainant for the incident.	The matter did not relate to the councillor acting in his official capacity therefore, following consultation with the IP, no further action was taken. Advice was issued to the Parish Council.
Two members of the public	District Councillor	The complainants alleged that the subject member had lied during a debate at a Council meeting.	The matter was investigated and a report issued. Following consideration of that report and other material, the IP found no prima facie evidence of a breach and recommended that the Monitoring Officer take no further action. The Monitoring Officer agreed with the IP's recommendation.
Member of the public	Parish Councillor	The complainant alleged that the subject member had hired people to remove and destroy his possessions, had prevented him from standing as a councillor and had lied during court proceedings.	The matter was investigated and a report issued. Following consideration of that report, the IP found no prima facie evidence of a breach and recommended that the Monitoring Officer take no further action. The Monitoring Officer agreed with the IP's recommendation.