

Item 7

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

30TH OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS - UPDATE

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This Report is to give members an update on complaints that have been received since local assessment came into force on the 8th May 2008, and covers the period from 8th May - 20th October 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Standards Committee be appraised of the report.

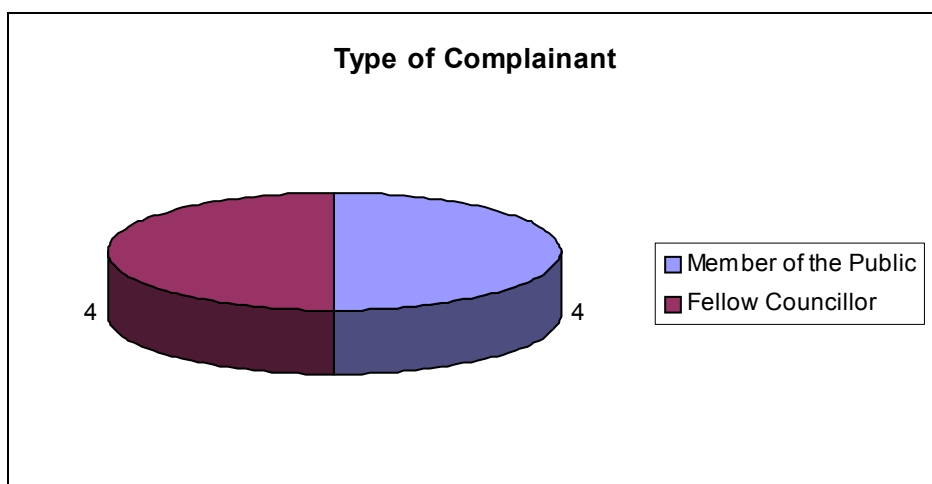
3. DETAIL

3.1 To date, the Monitoring Officer has received ten requests for complaint forms, of which eight forms have been returned. Some of these included a complaint against more than one member. All of these complaints have been determined by an Assessment Sub-Committee. A request for a review of a decision has also been made and this has been referred to a Review Sub-Committee for re-assessment.

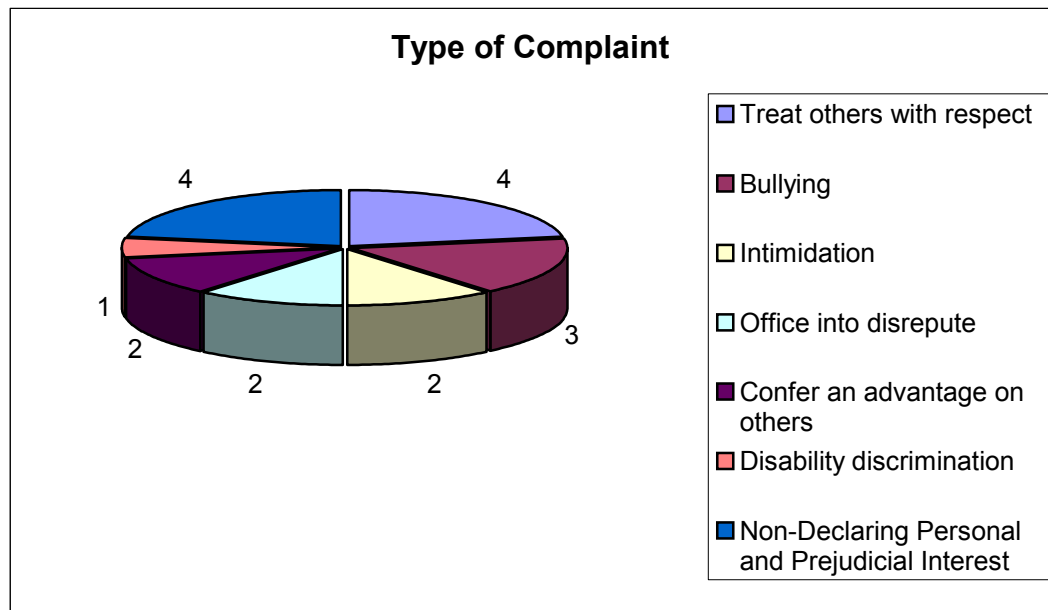
3.2 Some of the complaints include multiple allegations against a member.

3.3 For Members' information, below there is a summary of the complaints received:

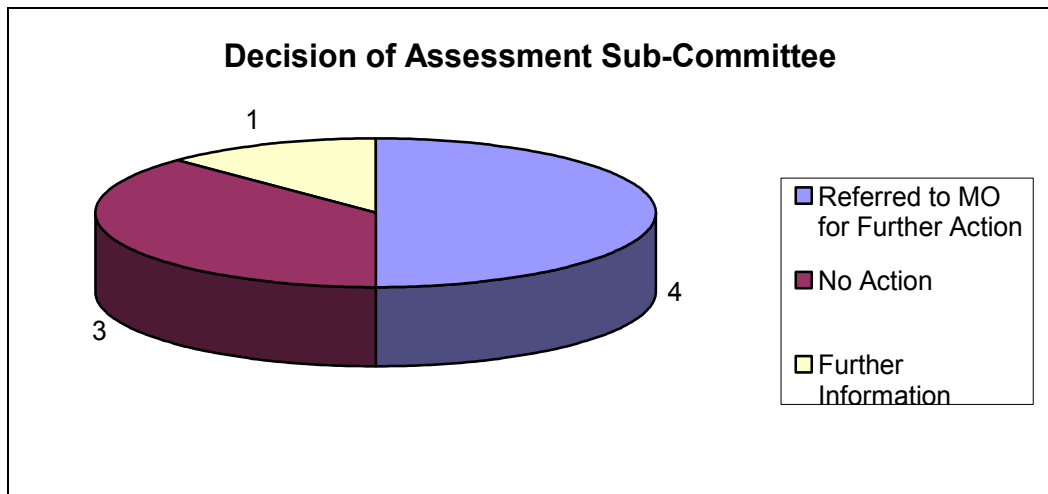
3.4 Type of Complainant



3.5 Type of Complaint



3.6 Decision of Assessment Sub-Committee



3.7 From the three decisions of “No Action”, one request for a review had been received and this is to be considered at a Review Sub-Committee to be held on 23rd October 2008.

3.8 Of the four decisions to refer to Monitoring Officer for further action two involved one to one meetings between the member and the Deputy Monitoring Officer, to give advice and guidance on the Members’ Code of Conduct, and these took place on the 17th September 2008. A conciliation meeting has yet to be convened between the Monitoring Officer and another two members.

3.9 A decision for “Further Information” was made in relation to one complaint, and the Monitoring Officer has notified the complainant of this decision.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No specific financial implications have been identified.

5. CONSULTATIONS

5.1 The Council's Standards Committee to be appraised of this Report.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 All material considerations have been taken into account in the contents of this report. In particular, risks may arise unless members of the Council are fully appraised on standards matters.

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None apply.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

8.1 None apply.

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Wards: N/A

Key Decision Validation: N/A

Background Papers

Complaint Forms

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Council's Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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