

Report of Head of Legal Services

11. Process for Managing Standards Complaints under the Localism Act 2011

Purpose of report

1. To review and update the Authority's arrangements for dealing with allegations of breach of the Members' code of conduct.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that the arrangements set out at Appendix 1 for Process for Managing Standards Complaints under the Localism Act 2011 be adopted.

Introduction and Background

2. The Authority has previously adopted a code of conduct for Members in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The Act also requires that we have arrangements in place for making decisions in respect of any allegations of breaches of that code.
3. The present set of arrangements were adopted in 2012 shortly after the Act came into force but following review, it has been found that these are not as clear as they could be and that there are better examples of best practice elsewhere. It is therefore proposed that the Authority adopt revised arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 and which modelled on those adopted by Worcestershire County Council.

Conclusion/Summary

4. The revised arrangements will provide greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities when dealing with any allegations of breaches of the code of conduct.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The Authority has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members. This helps underpin an effective Fire Authority which is one of the foundations of 'Our Strategy'
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	Not applicable

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Revised arrangements for Assessment, Investigation and Hearing of Complaints

Background papers – Existing arrangements as published in the Authority's Constitution

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