

COUNCIL
8 NOVEMBER 2018**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(d) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE STANDARDS
AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Code of Conduct – Complaints Update

1. Since the last report to the Committee in April 2018, the Council has received 6 formal complaints that a County Councillor has breached the Code of Conduct for members. The Committee received a summary of the details of the formal complaints and has noted the resolution in each case.

Local Government Ethical Standards – Stakeholder Consultation

2. The National Committee on Standards and Public Life (NCSPL, sometimes called the "Nolan Committee") invited responses to its consultation to inform its review of local government ethical standards. This consultation was reported to the Standards and Ethics Committee in April 2018, which debated the consultation issues and decided a response to be sent on behalf of the Council. In the light of that response, the NCSPL asked to visit the Council as part of its gathering of evidence of good practice in local government.
3. The visit to the Council took place on 11 September. The delegation was led by NCSPL member Dr Jane Martin (formerly local government Ombudsman) and supported by their secretariat. The NCSPL took evidence from the Chairman and other members of the Committee, representatives of each of the political groups, and an Independent Person (as well as 2 Independent members of the committee), as well as the Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
4. Dr Martin was kind enough to write and say the delegation was impressed by the leadership demonstrated by senior officers and members of the Council, which has allowed the Council to cultivate a culture of high standards and a civil approach to politics. They considered it particularly insightful to see how proper governance structures have a substantial influence on the way in which ethical standards operate at the Council.
5. The Committee has noted that Council will be informed nearer the time of the launch of the NCSPL's report and receive a copy of it, anticipated to be in the New Year.

Mr S J Mackay
Chairman

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee held on 24 October 2018.