

AGENDA ITEM:

SUMMARY



Report for:	Standards Committee
Date of meeting:	8th March 2018
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Standards Complaint – Councillor Paul Harris of Great Gaddesden Parish Council
Contact:	Mark Brookes - Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer Directline: 01442 228236, internal extension: 2236 Mark.brookes@dacorum.gov.uk
Purpose of report:	To consider a standard's complaint against Councillor Paul Harris.
Recommendation	That Members be requested to read the attached documents in readiness to consider the complaint
Corporate objectives:	The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by Members of the Council will assist the Council in achieving its priorities of performance excellence and reputation and profile delivery.
Implications: 'Value For Money Implications'	There are financial and efficiency costs to the Council in having to deal with complaints made under the Code of Conduct. There are, therefore, value for money benefits to the Council in striving to ensure that complaints against Members are minimised as far as possible and any complaints that are received are dealt with as cost effectively as possible.
Risk Implications	The risk to the Council in not having in place a robust local standards regime could damage its reputation for good governance and undermine public confidence in the Council as a whole.

Monitoring Officer	This is a report prepared by the Solicitor to the Council in his capacity as Monitoring Officer.
Consultees:	None
Background papers:	Code of Conduct Investigating Officer's Report

BACKGROUND REPORT

1. The Monitoring Officer has received a complaint dated 13th October 2017 regarding Councillor Paul Harris of Great Gaddesden Parish Council (annexed).
2. Members are requested to read the following documents before the meeting so that they are familiar with the details of the complaint. Usman Mohammed, Pupil Barrister, will also be attending to present his investigation report and to be available to be questioned by Members.
3. The documents attached are as follows –
 - A pre-hearing summary of the complaint prepared by the Monitoring Officer.
 - A copy of the investigation report.
 - A copy of the Council's procedure for dealing with complaints.
4. A copy of the Council's Code of Conduct is annexed to the investigation report. The Council's complaints procedure sets out at the procedure for the hearing.
5. Members will be asked, in consultation with the Independent Person, to arrive at a decision as to whether or not Councillor Harris has failed to follow the Code of Conduct and, if so, the reasons for their decision. If the Members decide that Councillor Harris has not followed the Code of Conduct they will, in consultation with the Independent Person, be asked to consider what action, if any, should be taken against Councillor Harris. Paragraph 8 of the complaints procedure sets out the range of actions available to the Standards Committee.

