



Report for:	Standards Committee
Date of meeting:	14th September 2023
PART:	Part I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Contact:	Mark Brookes – Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer Directline: 01442 228236, internal extension: 2236 Mark.brookes@dacorum.gov.uk
Purpose of report:	To advise Members of the details of a training session for Members of the Standards Committee to be held at the meeting on 14 th September 2023.
Recommendation	That Members be requested to read the attached documents in readiness for the training session to be facilitated by the Monitoring Officer.
Corporate objectives:	The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by Members of the Council will assist the Council in achieving all of its corporate priorities.
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 Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services in his capacity as Monitoring

	Officer.
Consultees:	None
Background papers:	Code of Conduct

BACKGROUND REPORT

1. There are no standards complaints to be formally considered at this meeting and it is therefore proposed to use the opportunity to hold a training session for Members of the Committee which will be facilitated by the Monitoring Officer.
2. The training session will be based around a fictitious complaint made against a member of Hemel Hempstead Borough Council. Members will be asked to consider how they should approach conducting a hearing into the complaint. It would assist if Members could read the attached documents before the meeting so that they are familiar with the details of the complaint. Adelle Stapleton, Deputy Monitoring Officer, will also be attending to present the investigation report and to be available to be questioned by Members.
3. The documents attached are as follows –
 - A copy of the Letter of Complaint
 - Complaint Summary
 - A copy of the Investigation Report which contains a summary of the allegation and the Investigating Officers findings.
 - A copy of the Council's procedure for dealing with complaints.
 - A copy of the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors
4. The session will be led by the Monitoring Officer and largely take the form of an informal discussion as to what are the key questions which emerge both from the complaint and what is said at the hearing itself as it progresses and how these should be addressed by the Members. It may be that other facts come to light during the session and Members will be asked to consider how they would respond to these new issues.
5. Members will be asked, in consultation with the Independent Person, to arrive at a decision as to whether or not Councillor Barlow has failed to follow the Code of Conduct and, if so, the reasons for their decision. If the Members decide that Councillor Barlow 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 Barlow. Paragraph 8 of the complaints procedure sets out the range of actions available to the Standards Committee.