



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
All wards

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
Standards Committee

**14 July 2011**

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**LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS  
SUMMARY JANUARY TO JUNE 2011**

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**Report of the Director of Corporate Governance**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To note the number and progress of complaints against councillors received in the first six months of 2011.

**2. Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the report and agree to receive updated reports bi-annually, with any significant issues to be reported to interim meetings where necessary.

**3. Report**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 16 March 2011, the Standards Committee asked for a standing item on future agendas giving a summary of complaints received and how they have progressed. This is the first of such reports, and includes all complaints received since 1 January 2011. It is recommended that these reports are considered by the Committee twice a year to allow for meaningful data to be reported, with the exception of any significant issues of note that should be brought to members' attention as soon as possible.
- 3.3 Between 1 January 2011 and 30 June 2011, we received 10 new complaints against councillors. These complaints have progressed as shown in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.4 Attached at Appendix 2 is a chart that allows comparison of the number of complaints received in the first and second six months each year since the start of the local assessment of complaints.
- 3.5 It has not been possible to hold all assessments within the recommended 20 days due to member availability, particularly during the local election period.
- 3.6 In this period we held our first hearing of a complaint. This resulted in a decision that there was no breach of the Code of Conduct, due to the councillors in question not acting in their official capacity at the time of the alleged incident.

**4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1. Financial Implications**

Efforts have been made to minimise costs by carrying out investigations in-house instead of appointing an external investigator.

**4.2. Legal Implications**

There are no additional legal implications relating to this report.

**4.3. Climate Change Implications**

This report does not contain any significant climate change implications and therefore should not have a detrimental effect on the Council's climate change targets.

Helen Lansdown, Senior Environmental Consultant - Sustainable Procurement

**5. Other Implications**

<b>OTHER IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>YES/ NO</b>	<b>Paragraph/References Within the Report</b>
Equal Opportunities	N	
Policy	N	
Sustainable and Environmental	N	
Crime and Disorder	N	
Human Rights Act	N	
Elderly/People on Low Income	N	
Corporate Parenting	N	
Health Inequalities Impact	N	

**6. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

Nil

**7. Report Author**

Heather Kent, Democratic Services Officer

## Appendix 1

### Complaints 1 January to 30 June 2011

Complaint No	Assessment	Review	Investigation	Notes
1	Yes - investigate	No – straight to investigation	Ongoing	Investigation close to completion
2	Yes - investigate	No – straight to investigation	Ongoing	Investigation close to completion
3	Yes - investigate	No – straight to investigation	Ongoing	Investigation close to completion
4/5 – dealt with together	Yes – no further action	No review requested - closed		
6	Yes – no further action	Yes, upheld decision of assessment - closed		
7	Yes – no further action	No review requested – closed.		
8	Yes – no further action	No review requested – closed.		
9	Delayed to 14.7.11			
10				Awaiting further info from complainant.

## Appendix 2

### Comparison of volume of complaints received

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>Jul- Dec</b>	<b>Jan - Jun</b>	<b>Jul- Dec</b>	<b>Jan- Jun</b>	<b>Jul- Dec</b>	<b>Jan-Jun</b>
<b>Complaints received</b>	16	2	0	3	9	10
<b>Complaints not progressed</b>	4	0	0	0	2	1
<b>Assessments</b>	12	2	0	3	7	9
<b>Reviews</b>	7	1	0	2	2	1
<b>Complaints referred for investigation</b>	1	0	0	1	0	3 (2 investigations)
<b>Hearings</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1