



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Standards Committee

18 January 2012

**LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS
SUMMARY JULY 2011 TO DECEMBER 2011**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

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. At its meeting on 14 July 2011, the Committee agreed to receive an update report every six months. This is the second of such reports, and includes all complaints received since 1 July 2011.
- 3.2 Between 1 July 2011 and 30 December 2011, we received four new complaints against councillors. There were also two complaints that had not yet been considered that were received prior to 1 July and three ongoing investigations. These complaints have progressed as shown in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.3 In this period two investigations relating to three complaints were completed and considered by the Standards Committee. The Committee agreed, in both cases, with the investigator's findings of no breach.
- 3.4 In this period one complaint has been referred for investigation and this is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the investigator's report will be submitted to the Standards Committee on 18 January 2012.

3.5 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.

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

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/ NO	Paragraph/References Within the Report
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 July to 30 December 2011

Complaint No	Assessment	Review	Investigation	Outcome	Summary of allegation
<i>Complaints received before July, but completed in this period</i>					
1	Prior to this period – refer for investigation	No – straight to investigation	Yes	No action	Disclosure of confidential information
2	Prior to this period – refer for investigation	No – straight to investigation	Yes	No action	Disclosure of confidential information
3	Prior to this period – refer for investigation	No – straight to investigation	Yes	No action	Misuse of position to the disadvantage of an individual by gaining information.
9	Yes – no action	Yes – other action	No	Other action	Predetermination and prejudice with regard to comments made outside a regulatory meeting.
10	Yes – no action	No	No	No action	“Spying” during the local election and refusal to respond to queries.
<i>New complaints</i>					
11	Yes – no action	No	No	No action	Inappropriate involvement in the complainant’s family issues, including misuse of position and bullying and intimidation.
12	Yes – refer for investigation	No	Yes (nearing completion)	Pending	Misuse of position in relation the waiver of parking fines and the use of parking exemption permits.
13	Yes – no action	No	No	No action	Unfair treatment, discrimination, personal bias, victimisation and political bullying.
14	13 January 2012			Pending	Actions of two councilors in the determination of a regulatory matter.

Appendix 2

Comparison of volume of complaints received

	2008	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011
	Jul- Dec	Jan - Jun	Jul- Dec	Jan- Jun	Jul- Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec
Complaints received	16	2	0	3	9	10	4
Complaints not progressed	4	0	0	0	2	1	0
Assessments	12	2	0	3	7	9	6
Reviews	7	1	0	2	2	1	1
Complaints referred for investigation	1	0	0	1	0	3 (2 investigations)	1
Hearings	0	0	0	0	0	1	0