

**Manchester City Council  
Report For Information**

**Report To:** Standards Committee – 27 June 2011  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report  
**Report of:** The City Solicitor

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**Purpose of the Report:**

To update members on allegations of breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

**Recommendations:**

To note the report.

**Financial Consequences for the Revenue Budget:**

There is a revenue cost in connection with the arrangements for and holding of the meetings of the Standards Sub-Committees and also in connection with the matters referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action or investigation.

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**Financial Consequences for the Capital Budget:**

None.

**Wards Affected:**

All.

**Implications for:**

Antipoverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
No	No	No	No

**Contact Officers:**

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**Background Documents:**

Minutes of the Standards Sub-Committees  
Standards Committee Monitoring Report dated 16 November 2009

## Background

1. The locally based system for dealing with complaints about local authority members' conduct was brought into force on 8 May 2008. Since that date Local Authorities' standards committees have been responsible for assessing written allegations that a member has failed to comply with the authority's code of conduct.
2. It is proposed that the Standards for England regime consisting of a centrally prescribed code of conduct; standards committees with power to investigate and prescribe statutory sanctions and a national monitoring and advisory body with power to investigate and provide sanctions for more serious matters will be abolished. Until this proposal is brought into force, Standards Committee will continue to assess, review; consider and hear complaints in respect of the Code of Conduct for Members (the **Code**).
3. This report provides an update on:
  - (i) the matters set out in the previous report to the Standards Committee dated 16 November 2009 regarding allegations of breach of the Code received between 1 November 2008 and 31 October 2009; and
  - (ii) the allegations received by the Standards Committee for the period 1 November 2009 to 17 June 2011.

### **Complaints reported to the Standards Committee on 16 November 2009 (the MO Report) regarding allegations of breach of the Code received between 1 November 2008 and 31 October 2009**

4. In relation to those complaints that were either referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action or for investigation, the outcomes are as follows:
  - in relation to the complaint referred to the Monitoring officer for other action (paragraph 5 of the MO Report) the matter has been satisfied; and
  - in relation to the two complaints referred to the Monitoring officer for investigation (paragraph 6 of the MO Report) both of these complaints have been considered by the Standards (Consideration and Hearing) Sub-Committee and in each case the Sub-Committee agreed with the Investigating Officer that there was no breach.
5. In relation to the two complaints referred to the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee for initial assessment (paragraph 7 of the MO Report):
  - one complaint was considered by the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee and the outcome was no further action. The complainant requested a review of this decision and the Standards (Review) Sub-Committee decided no further action on condition that the member had confirmed in writing their apology to the complainant. This matter has been satisfied; and

- the second complaint was referred for investigation.

**Complaints Received by the Standards Committee regarding allegations of breach of the Code for the period 1 November 2009 to 17 June 2011**

6. Nineteen complaints were received by the Standards Committee between 1 November 2009 and 17 June 2011.
7. Of these complaints, sixteen have been assessed by the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee and three are awaiting assessment.
8. Of the complaints that have been assessed:
  - nine resulted in a decision to take no further action. Of these nine decisions, reviews were requested in respect of three of them. The decisions of the Standards (Review) Sub-Committees were to take no further action in respect of two and the third one is awaiting review. One resulted in a decision to adjourn for clarification and this will be reported back to the Sub-Committee;
  - three resulted in the decision to refer the allegations for other action. One of the referrals has been satisfied, the other two involve requirements to attend training to take place shortly; and
  - three resulted in the decision to refer the complaints for investigation (two by the Monitoring Officer and one by Standards for England).