

# Values and Ethics Sub Committee

27<sup>th</sup> June 2022



**Report of:** Director: Legal and Democratic Services

**Title:** Summary of Complaints against Councillors – March 2021- May 2022

**Ward:** N/a

**Officer Presenting Report:** Nancy Rollason Head of Legal Service

## Recommendation

That the Committee notes the report and the summary of Complaints made against Councillors since the last report to the Committee in March 2021.

## The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the report and Appendix 1 to the report.



## **Policy**

1. This is an annual report providing details of Complaints made against Members of the Council.

## **Context**

2. The Committee agreed to receive an annual report in relation to Complaints made against Members of the Council at its meeting in March 2021.
3. A complaint against a Councillor relates to an allegation that a Councillor has not observed the Code of Conduct for Members. Complaints must be about councillors' actions relating to their role as a Member of the Council.
4. The Localism Act 2011 places a duty on the Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority and to adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity. Codes of conduct must be consistent with the following principles: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Bristol City Council's Code of Conduct for Members incorporates these principles.
5. The Act also requires all local authorities (other than parish and town councils) to have procedures in place to deal with complaints about member conduct. It is for the Authority to decide the details of those procedures, but they must appoint at least one Independent Person, whose views are to be taken into account, before making a decision on a complaint.
6. The summary of complaints at Appendix 1 of the report covers all complaints received since March 2021.
7. It is not possible to provide further details about complaints received, or the outcomes of complaints, as only complaints that have been upheld are published.

## **Other Options Considered**

8. Not applicable.

## **Risk Assessment**

9. Not applicable.

## **Legal and Resource Implications**

Legal

As set out in the report

(Legal advice provided by Nancy Rollason – Head of Legal Services)

**Financial / Land / Human Resources**

Not applicable.

**Appendix 1 – Summary of complaints 21-22**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers: None**