

North Somerset Council

Report to the Standards Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 August 2023

Subject of Report: Complaint against a North Somerset Councillor

North Somerset Council

**Officer/Member Presenting: Sara Saunders, Deputy Monitoring Officer
North Somerset Council**

Key Decision: No

Reason: Not an Executive Decision

Recommendations

- (i) That the Sub Committee together with the Independent Member consider the complaint; and
- ii) That the Sub Committee determine whether there has been a breach of the North Somerset Council Code of Conduct by the said Councillor.

1. Summary of Report

A complaint has been received from a member of the public regarding a North Somerset Councillor stating that the Councillor has breached the North Somerset Council Code of Conduct applicable to elected members.

2. Policy

The North Somerset Council Code of Conduct contains information on how a Councillor should behave when conducting business as a Councillor.

3. Details

One complaint has been received from a member of the public about a Councillor who is a serving North Somerset Councillor at North Somerset Council. The subject of the complaint was informed of the allegation and was asked to submit a response. The complaint, and associated documentation and the Councillor's response can be found in the Appendices.

4. Consultation

The Councillor concerned have been informed about the complaint.

5. Financial Implications

None

Costs

None

Funding

None

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The Standards regime is required by the Localism Act 2011

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None

8. Risk Management

None

9. Equality Implications

None

10. Corporate Implications

To uphold the North Somerset Council Code of Conduct

11. Options Considered

After considering the complaint, the Sub-Committee may make one of two decisions:

- i) Decide that no action should be taken (with reasons for the decision);
or
- ii) Decide the Councillors have breached the Code of Conduct and order sanctions to be applied against the Councillor;
or
- iii) Decided further investigation is required.

Author:

Sara Saunders, Solicitor
Deputy Monitoring Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Formal Complaint Form and associated documents
Appendix 2: Councillor response to complaint
Appendix 3: North Somerset Council Code of Conduct

Background Papers:

None