

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 19 JUNE 2018

**COMPLAINTS RAISED WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR ETHICAL STANDARDS
IN PUBLIC LIFE - 1 APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018**

REPORT BY LISA J DALLAS, SERVICE LEADER - LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC

ABSTRACT

This report advises of complaints made against Angus Councillors to the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life (the Standards Commission) during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) notes the findings of this Report; and
- (ii) requests the Service Leader - Legal and Democratic update members on the outcome of the ongoing complaint decisions in this Report at a later date.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/ CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

- Appropriate and effective complaints investigation in the council contributes to the delivery of all outcomes within the Angus local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.

3. BACKGROUND

The Ethical Standards in Public Life Etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 provides for a framework to encourage and, where necessary enforce, high ethical standards in public life. The Act established the Standards Commission for Scotland and placed a duty on local authorities to adopt the Councillors' Code of Conduct. It also provided a framework for breaches of that Code to be investigated and adjudicated upon by the Standards Commission.

The Code sets out nine principles namely, duty; selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability and stewardship; openness; honesty; leadership and respect.

This Report provides details of complaints made against Councillors during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. The purpose behind this Report is to advise members of the type of complaints made against Councillors and the outcomes.

4. CURRENT POSITION

During the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 there have been three referrals to the Standards Commission in respect of Angus Councillors. All of these matters are ongoing and members will be advised of the outcome of these referrals in a future report.

All complaints are dealt with on a confidential basis and only the complainer and the member concerned receive full details of the referral.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this Report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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