

Item No. 13.	Classification: Open	Date: 11 February 2019	Meeting Name: Audit Governance and Standards Committee
Report title:		Formation of sub-committee to decide on an allegation against the Code of Conduct for Members	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Law and Democracy	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note the issues outlined in this report.
2. That the committee appoint three members to form a sub-committee to decide on the allegation against the Code of Conduct for Members.
3. That committee appoint a chair of the sub-committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”) provides the framework for dealing with allegations concerning the conduct of members.
5. The Act requires local authorities to have arrangements to investigate allegations and make decisions on them. The arrangements have been in place since 1 July 2012.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Following a complaint to the Monitoring Officer an investigating officer was appointed in accordance with the Arrangements.
7. The investigating officer has reported and concludes there is evidence of a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members.
8. The Monitoring Officer has reviewed the investigating officer’s report and is satisfied that the investigating officer’s report is sufficient.
9. The Monitoring Officer, who considers local resolution not possible, must send the matter for hearing before the conduct sub-committee of the audit, governance and standards committee (“the conduct sub-committee”).
10. A copy of the Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011 is attached as Appendix A.

Community impact statement

11. Clear arrangements concerning the accountability of members are very important for promoting high standards of conduct. In addition it is important in aiding the decision-making process and helping to boost public confidence in the council. These arrangements

ensure that members of the public are aware of the process in place to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained within the council.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
A	Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Code of Conduct for Members	Legal Services, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Norman Coombe 020 7525 7678 Allan Wells 020 7525 2130

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy	
Report Author	Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, Legal Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	31 January 2019	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	N/A	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	31 January 2019	