

Committee:	THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	12 March 2018
Title:	Allegations against members
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Purpose:	For information

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Ombudsman's decisions on formal complaints against members.

2. Decisions

Complaint 201704855

Complaint by a member of the public that a member had been part of a decision to release confidential information

The Ombudsman decided not to investigate for the following reasons:

- There was insufficient evidence that the member was implicated in releasing the information

Complaint 7294/201705172

Complaint by a member of a town council that a fellow member had made a vexatious complaint against her to the Ombudsman

The Ombudsman decided not to investigate for the following reasons:

- The Ombudsman had accepted the complaint for investigation and could not conclude that the complaint was vexatious

Complaint 201706038

A complaint that a member had used his position as an elected member in relation to a complaint of harassment.

The Ombudsman decided not to investigate for the following reasons:

- The member was not acting as an elected member at the time but as a private individual.
- The comments made by the member did not damage the reputation of the Council.

Complaint 201706123

Complaint by a member of the public that a councillor had refused to engage with him in relation to issues relating to his property and to a dispute with the council.

The Ombudsman decided not to investigate for the following reasons:

- It is a matter for a councillor to decide whether to meet or correspond with a member of the public. The principal duty of members is to represent residents in their constituencies, but there is no obligation to deal with each individual matter reported to them.

3. Open Cases

The situation in relation to other cases is as follows:

- **Ombudsman considering if he should investigate** **2**
- **Ombudsman investigating** **2**

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the information.