

Meeting:	Standards Committee
Date:	19 September 2006
Subject:	Review of complaints to the Standards Board about Members
Responsible Officer:	John Robinson - Director of Corporate Governance
Contact Officer:	John Robinson
Portfolio Holder:	Leader
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

### **Section 1: Summary**

#### **Decision Required**

To note the report.

#### **Reason for report**

The various functions of this committee include promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, and monitoring the operation of the code of conduct for members. This report informs members of the decision of the Standards Board for England following receipt of various complaints against members.

#### **Benefits**

The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct is in line with the ethical framework and contributes to the Council's CPA rating.

#### **Cost of Proposals**

None associated with this report.

## **Risks**

None associated with this report.

## **Implications if recommendations rejected**

None.

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 In June 2006, this committee received a report on enforcement of the Code of Conduct, and the options available to the Standards Board for England on receipt of a complaint.
- 2.2 This report now informs members of complaints to the Standards Board for England about Harrow councillors.
- 2.3 Between August 2005 and July 2006 two allegations were made to the Standards Board about Harrow councillors. The outcome was that these allegations should not be investigated. Members are asked to also note that no sanctions have been recommended against any Harrow councillor during this period.
- 2.4 By way of comparison with the other London Boroughs, Harrow's position is below average. Nationally the Standards Board received 3826 complaints between August 2005 and July 2006. Only 5% of which related to London Boroughs. As there are 33 London Boroughs, this represents an average of between five and six complaints per London Borough.
- 2.5 Officers are not aware of any other complaints made to the Standards Board. However, any further complaints will be included in next year's report.

### **Financial Implications**

None associated with this report.

### **Legal Implications**

There are none arising from the contents of this report.

### **Equalities Impact**

No direct relevance.

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**