

**To: Standards Committee**

**Date: 18th December 2015**

**Report of: Head of Law and Governance**

**Title of Report: Assessment Panel Decision Notices**

# Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report**: To update the Committee on the work carried out by the Council’s Assessment Panel

**Recommendation(s):** The Committee is recommended to note the decision notices issued by the Council’s Assessment Panel

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Decision Notice dated 12th March 2014, Councillor Jones

Appendix 2 – Decision Notice dated 12th March 2014, Councillor Price

Appendix 3 – Decision Notice dated 10th July 2014, Councillor Malik

Appendix 4 - Decision Notice dated 29th July 2015, Councillor Clarkson

**Background**

1. The Council has in place “Complaints Handling Arrangements” which set out how a member of the public may make a complaint that an elected or co-opted Member of this Council or of a Parish Council within our area has failed to comply with the Authority’s Code of Conduct, and set out how the authority will deal with allegations of a failure to comply with the authority’s Code of Conduct.
2. The Council has an Assessment Panel made up of the Independent Persons appointed for the purpose of considering any complaints received about possible breaches, by Members of the Council, of the Members Code of Conduct together with the Monitoring Officer. The role of the Panel is to consider whether any complaints made merit investigation. The decision is recorded in a decision notice which is sent to the complainant and the Councillor complained against.

**Decisions of the Assessment Panel**

1. The Assessment Panel has met four times, since the last meeting of the Standards Committee, to consider complaints made against four different Members of the Oxford City Council. In all of the cases it was decided that they did not merit investigation. Copies of the Decision Notices issued on behalf of the Assessment Panel are attached to this report for information at **Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

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**Background papers:** None