

officer is minded to dismiss as being without merit, vexatious, or trivial. This decision will no

Speak to the complainant and to any other witnesses and may collect written evidence, such as correspondence, or minutes of meetings.

5.2 The Investigating Officer will contact the Member and provide them with a copy of the complaint and ask the Member to provide his/her explanation of events, and to identify what documents the Investigating Officer needs to see and anyone they should interview. In very exceptional cases, where the Monitoring Officer, after consulting the Independent Person, considers that disclosing details of the complaint to the Member might prejudice the investigation, these will be withheld from the Member until the

8.4 Report its findings and recommendations to the next available meeting of the County Council.

The Member Conduct Panel has no power to suspend or disqualify the Member or to withdraw members' or special responsibility allowances.

9 **s communicated to a Member?**

As soon as reasonably rA-292 Tf100Orct 31 (A-292 Tf100Orct 31 (A-292 Tf100O25A)-2 §4.

13 Appeals

A Member is expected to comply with the decisions taken through the process and has no right of appeal against a finding of breach of the Member Code of Conduct. However, a Member may require that a further Member Conduct Panel meeting reviews any sanction imposed at a hearing.

14 Local Government Ombudsman

Where a complainant concludes that the authority has failed to deal properly with a complaint, they may make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.