

**AUDIT, STANDARDS AND  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**23rd July 2018**

**MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro (for Governance)
Portfolio Holder consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor consulted	N/A

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report sets out the position in relation to key standards regime matters which are of relevance to the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee since the last meeting of the Committee on 15th March 2018.
- 1.2 It is proposed that a report of this nature be presented to each meeting of the Committee to ensure that Members are kept updated with any relevant standards matters.
- 1.3 Any further updates arising after publication of this report, including any relevant standards issues raised by the Parish Councils' Representative(s), will be reported on orally by Officers/the Parish Representative(s) at the meeting.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**That, subject to Members' comments, the report be noted.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 The Localism Act became law on 15th November 2011. Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act') introduced a new standards regime effective from 1st July 2012. The Act places a requirement on authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted (with voting rights) Members of an authority. The Act also requires the authority to have in place arrangements under which allegations that either a district or parish councillor has breached his or her Code of Conduct can be investigated, together with arrangements under which decisions on such

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allegations can be made. The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 were laid before Parliament on 8th June 2012 and also came into force on 1st July 2012.

**Service / Operational Implications**

Member Complaints

- 3.3 Members are advised that there has been one formal complaint (member to member District) since the last meeting of the Committee and that complaint has been resolved locally between the two group leaders.

Members are advised that all outstanding complaints have now been resolved locally and actions agreed with Group Leaders.

Member training

- 3.4 No training has taken place since the last update.
- 3.5 Both the Member Development Steering Group and the Constitution Review Working Group continue to meet regularly.
- 3.6 The member Development Steering Group will concentrate on the Induction Programme for new Members in 2019/20. Group Leaders are being encouraged to consult with their Members to ascertain what training they feel would be most suitable in order for the Induction Programme to be more meaningful and useful to any new Members.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.7 There are no direct implications arising out of this report. Details of the Council's arrangements for managing standards complaints under the Localism Act 2011 are available on the Council's website and from the Monitoring Officer on request.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- Risk of challenge to Council decisions; and
- Risk of complaints about elected Members.

**5. APPENDICES**

None.

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**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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