

**AUDIT, STANDARDS AND
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

11th October 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 23rd July 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

**AUDIT, STANDARDS AND
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

11th October 2018

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 All historic complaints have been resolved locally and since the last meeting of the Committee we have had one member to member complaint (District) which is currently ongoing.

Member training

- 3.4 Following discussions at the Member Development Steering Group sessions have been organised in respect of Data Protection, recent changes to the laws surrounding data protection mean that it is even more important than ever for Members to understand their role and responsibilities when handling personal data. Two sessions have been planned for 26th September and 10th October. An update in respect of attendance will be provided at the meeting on 11th October.
- 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 is starting to review the Member Induction programme in preparation for the new municipal year, together with reviewing Members' use of IT equipment and its suitability.
- 3.7 The Constitution Review Working Group has completed its review of the scheme of delegations and has agreed to include this as a standing item on future agendas. The Group will also be reviewing the "call In" process at its next meeting.
- 3.8 The Constitution Review Working Group has been working very effectively in enabling constructive changes to the constitution to be made and in keeping all Members informed.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 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.

**AUDIT, STANDARDS AND
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

11th October 2018

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.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Claire Felton

Email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk