

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Audit, Standards &
Governance Committee
2022**

12th April

MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling (including Governance)
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Yes
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Contact email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit, Standards and Governance Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-

1) subject to Members' comments, the report be noted

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 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 update provided at the meeting of the Committee in February 2022.

2.2 It has been 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.

**Audit, Standards &
Governance Committee
2022**

12th April

- 2.3 Any further updates arising after publication of this report, including any relevant standards issues raised by Parish Councils, will be reported verbally by Officers at the meeting.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 ('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 allegations can be made.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 It is important to ensure that the Council manages standards regime matters in an appropriate manner. The issues detailed in this report help to ensure that there is an effective and sustainable Council.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific climate change implications

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 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 &
Governance Committee
2022**

12th April

Operational Implications

6.2 **Member Complaints**

Since the last meeting of the Committee, no complaints have been received. The complaint that was reported at the last meeting of the Committee is still 'live' and being investigated and is therefore ongoing.

The New Normal

6.4 Since 7th May 2021, elected Members have needed to attend formal Committee meetings in person. These rules do not apply to informal meetings, such as Scrutiny Task Groups or Member training and consequently a lot of informal and private meetings continue to take place remotely.

6.5 Throughout the pandemic a risk-assessed approach has been adopted by the Council when organising and holding committee meetings. Arrangements continue to be reviewed on a monthly basis, taking into account local case numbers and national rules. Group leaders are consulted on arrangements.

6.6 The Constitution Review Working Group met on 28th February 2022. Any recommendations arising from meetings of this group will be reported to Council for Members' consideration.

6.7 Member Development Steering Group are due to meeting at the end of March 2022 and any updates will be provided for at the next meeting of the Committee in July 2022.

7. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 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.

8. **APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No appendices.

**Audit, Standards &
Governance Committee
2022**

12th April

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

**Audit, Standards &
Governance Committee
2022**

12th April

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro – Portfolio Holder for Governance	1 st April 2022
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer	25 th March 2022
Financial Services	N/A	
Legal Services	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer	25 th March 2022