

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Audit, Standards & Governance Committee    17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor K. May
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services Contact email: <a href="mailto:c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a>	
Wards Affected		N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		N/A
Relevant Council Priority		Sustainable
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

**1.    RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are asked to RESOLVE that:-**

- 1) Subject to Members' comments, the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee is assured regarding the Monitoring Officer's Report.**

**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 November 2025.
- 2.2 It was proposed that from 2025-26 a report of this nature be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis to ensure that Members are kept updated with any relevant standards matters.
- 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.    COUNCIL PRIORITIES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Local Government Reorganisation Implications**

- 5.1    There are no direct implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

**Relevant Council Priorities**

- 5.2    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 the Council is sustainable.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.3    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.

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#### **Operational Implications**

##### **Member Complaints**

6.2     Since the last report the complaints received are as follows:

##### **Q1 2025**

5 Member to Member complaints – All resolved (4 assessed as not conduct matters and 1 resolved informally).

2 Public -v- Member complaints – All resolved (both assessed as not conduct matters).

##### **Q2 2025**

5 Member to Member complaints – Resolved informally.

2 Public -v- Members – Resolved (both assessed as not conduct matters).

##### **Q3 2025**

3 Public -v- Members – Resolved (all assessed as not conduct matters).

##### **New Complaints**

2 Public – v – Members - Unresolved

Type of complaint	Unresolved from last meeting	New complaints this period	Resolved this period	Unresolved at date of meeting	Age Analysis		
					2025 Q3 (Oct-Dec)	2025 Q2 (July-Sept)	2025 Q1 (Apr-June)
Member to Member	0	0		0	0	5	5
Public to Member	0	2	0	2	3	2	2
Other complaint 1							
Other complaint 2							
Other complaint 3							
Total	0	2	0	2	3	7	7

##### **Constitution Review**

6.3     The Constitution Review Working Group (CRWG) is responsible for reviewing the content of the Council's constitution. Any proposed

changes arising from meetings of the group are reported for the consideration of Council.

- 6.4 At the request of Members the meeting of the CRWG that was scheduled to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 was postponed and rescheduled to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025. During this meeting, Members revisited items that were proposed at a meeting of the group held in July and also discussed matters such as the live streaming of meetings and allowances for Members.

**Member Development**

- 6.5 The Member Development Steering Group (MDSG) is responsible for co-ordinating Member training, induction and ICT support. The group meets throughout the year.
- 6.6 A meeting of the Member Development Steering Group took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026. During this meeting the group discussed training that had been delivered during the 2025/26 municipal year, attendance at training that has been delivered to date and future training requirements for 2026/27. Consideration was also given to the potential for a WhatsApp Policy to be introduced for Members.

**Member Training**

- 6.7 A small number of Member training sessions have been arranged for 2025/26. This reduced number of training sessions has been booked in accordance with arrangements requested by the MDSG. In line with the approach agreed by the MDSG, some of this training is being delivered jointly with Redditch Borough Council, whilst other sessions are bespoke and being delivered to Bromsgrove Members only.
- 6.8 The MDSG has previously requested that the majority of training should be delivered in person. However, Members can opt to attend most training sessions remotely, with the link to the session provided on request. For 2026/27, the MDSG has agreed that the majority of training should be delivered remotely, on the basis that this will be more convenient for Members with work, caring or other commitments. The exceptions to this will be planning and licensing training, where members will be expected to attend the training that is provided in person.

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- 6.9    The MDSG has requested that Safeguarding training be arranged to be delivered prior to the end of the municipal year. Officers are currently in the process of identifying a date on which this training could be delivered.

#### **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.

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

#### **9.    REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor K. May, Leader and Cabinet Member Strategic Partnerships Economic Development and Enabling	6/2/26
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor (Governance)	4/2/26
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton - Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services	N/A
Financial Services	N/A	N/A