

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**19th May 2010**

**MONITORING THE OPERATION OF THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution tasks the Standards Committee with the role of monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and therefore this is included on the Committee's Work Programme each year. Members are requested to decide on how this should be done.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Committee decides how to undertake monitoring of the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Articles of Constitution of the Council task the Standards Committee with the role of monitoring the effectiveness of the Code of Conduct. In previous years the Committee has simply discussed this at a meeting in a fairly brief manner.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider how they wish to monitor of the operation of the Code Conduct. This could be done in a number of ways, including a general discussion at a Committee meeting or, in view of the unprecedented number of complaints received this year, the Committee might wish to consider conducting a more thorough review of the operation and effectiveness of the Code of Conduct by way of a scrutiny-type task group.
- 4.2 If the Committee is minded to consider the latter option, then Members are asked to bear in mind the significant impact the current caseload of complaints is having on officer resources.
- 4.3 Alternatively, Members may wish to consider carrying out this exercise following the conclusion of the current investigations and, if relevant, final determinations, as these might highlight areas of conduct or parts of the Code of Conduct which might require training or guidance.

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**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are unlikely to be any financial implications.

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 sets out the requirements for the composition of Standards Committees which has been expanded in the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

8.1 N/a

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

No significant risks arising from this report have been identified, but any minor risks arising are being managed as follows:

*Risk Register:* Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

*Key Objective Ref No:* 2

*Key Objective:* Effective ethical governance

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

12.1 N/a

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**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

13.1 N/a

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 None

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 None

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

16.1 None

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

17.1 None

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 None.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 N/a

**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No

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Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All wards

**22. APPENDICES**

None

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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