

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

28th January 2016

MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT – STANDARDS REGIME

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Portfolio Holder consulted	Yes
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
Non-Key Decision	

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, Governance and Standards Committee since the last meeting of the Committee on 24th September 2015.
- 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 as to any relevant standards matters.
- 1.3 Any further updates arising after publication of this report will be reported on orally by Officers at the meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

the report of the Monitoring Officer, together with any additional updates provided by Officers at the meeting, be noted and commented upon as appropriate.

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

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(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. 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 At the time of drafting this report no complaints had been received by the Monitoring Officer since the last meeting of the Committee in September 2015.

Member Training

- 3.4 Since the last meeting of the Committee the following training for Councillors has taken place:
- Equalities and Safeguarding – 9 Members attended;
 - Planning pre-application - 6 Members attended; and
 - one councillor attended Chairing skills training which was hosted by Bromsgrove District Council.
- 3.5 Officers are working with the Member Support Steering Group to confirm arrangements for induction and training opportunities following the Borough Council elections in May.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.6 There are no direct implications arising out of this report. Any process for managing standards of behaviour for elected and co-opted councillors must be accessible to the public. Details of the process for Member complaints are available 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.

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5. APPENDICES

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Confidential complaint papers.

Various reports to, and minutes of, Council and Committee meetings, as detailed in the report.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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