

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

27th April 2017

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 2nd February 2017.
- 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 standards issues raised by the Feckenham Parish Council Representatives, will be reported orally by the Monitoring Officer (MO) / Representatives at the meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE 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 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

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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 Since the last meeting of the Committee in February 2017 one Member to Member complaint has been received. The Monitoring Officer has asked for a formal investigation to take place into this, which at the time of drafting this report was ongoing.

Member Training

- 3.4 Personal health and safety training for Members was held in February. It was attended by 9 Councillors and was well received.
- 3.5 A housing workshop was held in early March involving members of the Member Support Steering Group only. This brought forward ideas for future training and support for Members on dealing with housing issues, as well as opportunities for further data protection training.
- 3.6 Social media training which was scheduled for the 29th March was cancelled due to low Member response.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 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 Member complaints process are available on the Council's website and 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.

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

Confidential complaint correspondence.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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