

# AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

26th April 2018

## MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT – STANDARDS REGIME

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Portfolio Holder consulted	
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 1st February 2018.
- 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 Representative(s), will be reported by the Monitoring Officer (MO) 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 standards regime effective from 1st July 2012. The Act places a requirement on authorities to promote and

# **AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

26th April 2018

---

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. The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 were laid before Parliament on 8th June 2012 and came into force on 1st July 2012

## **Service / Operational Implications**

### Member Complaints

- 3.3 Whilst the Monitoring Officer has had enquiries about the role of Members on the Planning Committee and the rules around declarations of interests and issues of bias and/or pre-determination, to which she has responded, no formal complaint of any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by any particular Member has been made to her.

### Member Training

- 3.4 No further training has been delivered to Members since the last meeting of the Committee.
- 3.5 Following discussions by the Member Support Steering Group a detailed induction programme is in the process of being developed for new Councillors who will be elected in May 2018. Existing Councillors will be welcome to attend many of these sessions.

## **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 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.

**AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

---

26th April 2018

5. **APPENDICES**

None

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.  
Confidential complaint papers (where applicable).

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Jess Bayley, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch)

Email: [jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3268