

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7th March 2019

MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT – STANDARDS REGIME

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matthew Dormer, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Governance and Partnerships
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 25th October 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

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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 There has been one new member to member complaint since the last meeting of the committee and this has been resolved locally. There is one outstanding complaint which remains ongoing.

Member Training

- 3.4 The Member Support Steering Group Members are currently concentrating on ensuring the new Member Induction Pack and Training Programme are up to date and ready for the new municipal year.
- 3.5 Officers and Members continue to explore ways in which to both reduce the amount of paper used for agendas and enhancing the use of Member IT equipment to reduce the number of paper copies of agendas that need to be printed.

Constitution Review Working Party

- 3.6 The Constitution Review Working Party has been working very effectively in enabling constructive changes to the constitution to be made and in keeping all Members informed.
- 3.7 At least one further meeting of the Constitution Review Working Party is due to be held this municipal year. During this meeting Members will be asked to consider proposed changes to the Licensing Code of Practice and employment appeals processes.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 There are no direct implications arising out of this report. Any process for managing standards of behaviour for elected and co-opted councillors must

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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.

5. APPENDICES

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Confidential complaint papers (where applicable).

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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