

MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Luke Court – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Contact email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-

1) subject to Members' comments, the report be noted.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 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 update provided at the meeting of the Committee in July 2023.

2.2 It has been 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.

- 2.3 Any further updates arising after publication of this report, including any relevant standards issues raised by Parish Councils, will be reported on orally by Officers at the meeting.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 ('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 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.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 It is important to ensure that the Council manages standards regime matters in an appropriate manner. The issues detailed in this report help to ensure that there is an effective and sustainable Council.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific climate change implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising out of this report. Details of the Council's arrangements for managing standards complaints under the Localism Act 2011 are available on the Council's website and from the Monitoring Officer on request.

Operational Implications

Member Complaints

- 6.2 As a result of the issues reported to this committee in relation to the use of Social Media training has been arranged and will be delivered by Inspector Richard Field, of West Mercia Police, on 12th October 2023. All members are asked to attend.

Member Support Steering Group

- 6.3 The Member Support Steering Group (MSSG) is responsible for reviewing Member training, induction and ICT support. Meetings of the MSSG are due to take place throughout the 2023/24 municipal year.
- 6.4 The first meeting of the group took place in August 2023. During the meeting, Members considered the outcomes of the Member Induction process and received an update on forthcoming training. The group agreed to issue a survey to all new Members to request feedback on the induction process and this feedback will inform future induction processes at the Council.

Constitutional Review Working Party

- 6.5 The Constitutional Review Working Party (CRWP) is responsible for reviewing the Council's constitution and makes recommendations to full Council regarding any proposed changes to the content of the constitution.
- 6.6 The CRWP holds regular meetings throughout the year. The latest meeting of the CRWP took place in July. During the meeting, Members recommended some changes to the Council's Policy Framework and also agreed that Council meetings should be live streamed in future. The outcomes of this meeting are due to be reported for Members' consideration at the next Council meeting.

Member Training

- 6.7 Following the local elections in May 2023, a comprehensive Member training programme was arranged for both new and returning Members.
- 6.8 The training sessions that have recently taken place or are due to take place soon last include:
- Appointments Committee training – Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th September 2023
 - Members' Code of Conduct Training – Tuesday 10th and Thursday 19th October 2023
 - Redditch Members' Social Media Training – Thursday 12th October 2023
 - Planning Enforcement Training – Monday 23rd October 2023
 - Carbon Literacy Training – Thursday 2nd November 2023

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 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.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

No appendices.

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Luke Court - Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling	11 th September 2023
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	11 th September 2023
Financial Services	N/A	
Legal Services	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	11 th September 2023