

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Audit, Governance & Standards Committee      21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**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: <a href="mailto:c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a>
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 January 2024.

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      An update with regard to Member complaints will be provided verbally at the meeting.

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Audit, Governance & Standards Committee**      **21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

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 to take place throughout the 2023/24 municipal year.
- 6.4 The last meeting of the group took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024. At the meeting, the draft Member induction packs for Redditch Councillors due to be elected in May 2024 were considered. It was recommended that two additional items be added to the induction packs with respect to the Knowledge Bank directory and the list of services provided by the Council, divided into statutory and discretionary services.

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 took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. During the meeting, Members recommended changes in respect of licensing delegations.
- 6.7 Additionally, Members recommended some changes to the Council and Committee Procedure Rules and with respect to the length of the Constitution. The outcomes of this meeting are due to be reported to the Annual Council meeting in May 2024.

Member Training

- 6.8 No further training sessions have taken place since the last meeting.

**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.

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Audit, Governance & Standards Committee      21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**8.      APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No appendices.

Background Papers: Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

**9.      REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Luke Court - Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling	13/03/2024
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	13/03/2024
Legal Services	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	13/03/2024