

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee

24th July 2025

MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jane Spilsbury
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Assistant Director 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 January 2025.
- 2.2 It has been proposed that a report of this nature be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis 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 Since the last report to the Committee, two complaints have been made by members of the public against a Borough Councillor, both of which were assessed and found not to be code of conduct matters.

One complaint has been made by a County Councillor against a Borough Councillor, which was assessed and found not to be a code of conduct matter.

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 have been arranged for the 2025/26 municipal year, with a meeting due to take place on 23 July 2025.

Constitutional Review Working Party

- 6.4 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. The next CRWP meeting is due to take place on 28 July 2025.

Member Training

- 6.6 A number of refresher training sessions and briefings have been provided to elected Members since the start of 2025-26 municipal year, which included:

- Data Protection Training– Tuesday 6th May 2025
- Hate Crime Awareness Briefing – Monday 16th June 2025
- Local Government Finance Training – Wednesday 25th June 2025.

In addition, member briefings and a member engagement session on local government reorganisation (LGR) have been taking place over May and June 2025. These briefings and engagement on LGR will continue to be provided in the run up to the 28 November 2025 when a final proposal for LGR within Worcestershire must be submitted on behalf of all seven Worcestershire councils.

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.

Background Papers: Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.