

## **REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Audit, Governance & Standards Committee**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

#### **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 Procurement 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 October 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, the Monitoring Officer has received one complaint from a member of the public, which did not pass the initial assessment. Several complaints were received from

County Councillors and a member of the public, which we expect to resolve informally.

The complaint, which was reported at the last meeting, against three members is still at the initial stage awaiting further information from the complainant.

**Member Support Steering Group**

- 6.3 The Member Support Steering Group (MSSG) is responsible for reviewing Member training, induction and ICT support. The next meeting is due to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**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. These meetings take place when upcoming review is required.

The latest meeting of CRWP took place on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026, where amendments to the Council's Constitution in respect of the Scheme of Delegations regarding Taxi Licensing function was discussed. Following the Licensing Committee meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025, the CRWP also discussed a recommendation with respect to permanently delegating authority to officers to determine hackney carriage and private hire vehicle renewal applications that fell outside of the Council's age criteria policy. The recommendations will be reported to Council.

**Member Training**

- 6.5 Member briefings and engagement sessions on local government reorganisation (LGR) continued to take place in the run up to the Extraordinary Council meeting on 17 November 2025. At that meeting, the Council adopted the north and south Local Government Re-Organisation Proposal for Worcestershire, as the Council's final submission to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government ("MHCLG") on the issue of LGR. This was subsequently submitted to Government before the 28 November 2025.

**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.