
MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Craig Warhurst
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: 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 2026.
- 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. COUNCIL PRIORITIES - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

Relevant Council Priority

- 5.2 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

- 5.3 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 For the period 1st April 2025-31st March 2026 and since the last report the Monitoring Officer has received 2 complaints from members of the public against 2 members. The complaints did not pass the initial assessment. All complaints reported at the last meeting have been resolved informally.
- 6.3 From 1st April 2026, the Monitoring Officer has received:-
- a) 1 anonymous complaint against a member which was referred to the Police – no investigation.
 - b) 2 member to member complaints – one did not pass the initial assessment. The other matter is ongoing.
 - c) 8 complaints from members of the public:-
 - 4 against one member – none of which passed the initial assessment.
 - 2 against one member – none of which passed the initial assessment.
 - 1 against one member which was withdrawn before the initial assessment was carried out.
 - 1 against a member which was assessed and found not to be a conduct matter.

Whistleblowing

- 6.4 We have received 2 whistleblowing reports for the period 1st April 2024-31st March 2025. Both investigated and signed off by the Monitoring Officer as complete.
- 6.5 For the period 1st April 2025-31st March 2026 the Council received 1 whistleblowing report. This matter has been investigated.
- 6.6 At a recent meeting of Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) with Fourth Tier Managers, the Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager delivered a presentation on the subject of

whistleblowing. This presentation provided information on the following points:-

- What constitutes whistleblowing
- Who staff should report to when whistleblowing
- The Council's process for whistleblowing under the authority's whistleblowing policy

6.7 Any whistleblowing are logged and reported to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as part of their governance monitoring arrangements.

6.8 Whistleblowing reports will also be reported as part of the Monitoring Officer's report to Audit, Governance and Standards Committee moving forward.

Member Support Steering Group

6.9 The Member Support Steering Group (MSSG) is responsible for reviewing Member training, induction and ICT support. The last meeting took place on Wednesday 1st July 2026. At the meeting, the Group was provided with updates on ICT and Member training attendance. The Group also discussed initial reflections on the Member Training and Induction Programme for 2026/27.

Constitutional Review Working Party

6.10 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.

6.11 The first meeting of CRWP in the 2026/27 municipal year took place on 13th July 2026. The item under consideration was a general review of the Scheme of Delegations in respect of Planning.

Member Training

6.12 A comprehensive programme of member training has taken place following the local elections in May 2026, including induction sessions for new Councillors. The training sessions that have taken place since local elections in May are:

- Planning Committee Training (two sessions for new members on the Committee on 12th and 14th May)
- Code of Conduct and Standards Training (Wednesday 13th May)
- Planning Committee Refresher Training (Monday 18th May)
- Hitting the Ground Running (training for new councillors on Tuesday 19th May)
- Data Protection and Safeguarding (Wednesday 27th May)
- Modern.gov app training (Monday 1st June)
- Overview and Scrutiny Training (Tuesday 2nd June)
- Licensing Committee (Parent Committee Training before the meeting on Thursday 4th June)
- Members' Chairing Skills Training (offered to new Committee Chairs through June 2026)
- Local Government Finance Training – Refresher Session (Tuesday 23rd June)
- New Members' Local Government Finance Training (Tuesday 30th June)
- Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Training Session 1 (to Committee Members on Wednesday 8th July)

6.13 The Member Support Steering Group (MSSG) had considered initial reflections on the Member Training and Induction Programme for 2026/27 at their meeting on 1st July 2026. The MSSG will consider this in more detail at future meetings.

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.