

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee

3rd November 2026

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 and other governance 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 2026.
- 2.2 Members have previously agreed 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 and governance matters.
- 2.3 Any further updates arising after publication of this report, including any relevant standards issues raised by Parish Councils, will be reported verbally 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 and other governance 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 Since the last report the unresolved member to member complaint has now been resolved. The Monitoring Officer has received one complaint from a member of the public which did not pass the initial assessment and a complaint from officers against a member, which was resolved informally.

Whistleblowing

- 6.3 The whistleblowing matter reported at the last meeting is now completed. The allegations were not upheld.
- 6.4 From 1st April 2026, the Council has received 2 whistleblowing reports. Both matters are currently being investigated.
- 6.5 Any whistleblowing reports are logged and reported to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as part of their governance monitoring arrangements.

Contract Procedure Rules – Waivers

- 6.6 The Contract Procedure Rules require a waiver to be approved in writing and signed by the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer and recorded on the waivers register. Where the contract is £50,000 or above the relevant Portfolio Holder must also be consulted. Assistant Directors must monitor the use of waivers relevant to their department.
- 6.7 The list of waivers approved since May 2026 is attached at Appendix 1.

Member Support Steering Group

- 6.8 The Member Support Steering Group (MSSG) is responsible for reviewing Member training, induction and ICT support. The most recent meeting took place on Wednesday 7th October 2026. At the meeting, Members received updates with respect to ICT and attendance at Members' training. At the meeting it was agreed that additional equalities' training as well as Treasury Management training be

arranged. It was also agreed for the draft 2027-28 Members' induction and training programme to be presented to the next meeting of MSSG, due to take place in December 2026.

Constitutional Review Working Party

- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 The last meeting was on 13th July 2026 and there have been no further meetings of CRWP since the last update to this Committee. The item under consideration was a general review of the Scheme of Delegations in respect of Planning. The changes proposed to the Council's Scheme of Delegations in respect of planning were subsequently approved at the meeting of Council held on 21st September 2026.

Member Training

- 6.11 A comprehensive programme of member training has taken place following the local elections in May 2026, including induction sessions for new Councillors. These training sessions mostly took place over the period May-July 2026. The training sessions that have taken place since the last update to the Committee in July 2026 include:
- Members' Equalities Training (Monday 14th September 2026)
 - New National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Training (Tuesday 29th September)

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.

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8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Contract Procedure Rules – Waivers

Background Papers

Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Warhurst, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance	26.10.2026
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings Principal Solicitor (Governance)	23.10.2026
Assistant Director	Claire Felton Assistant Director Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services.	26.10.2026