

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2016

REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER

CODE OF CONDUCT – UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the latest position with regard to standards matters including the Code of Conduct, the Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and any complaints against Councillors dealt with under the Council's process.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The update on the position of standards matters including Parishes' Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and complaints against Councillors dealt with under the provisions of the Localism Act is noted.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests

Borough Councillors are aware to update their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and other interests as soon as there is any change to the submitted form and these updates are added to the Council's website.

Both Borough and Parish Councillors were reminded to check that their DPI forms are up to date at the start of the new Civic Year.

3.2 Complaints

Governance Sub Committee 2 met to consider a complaint that had been referred for investigation on 21 April 2016 and the complaint was closed with no further action. At the time of writing this report, there is one complaint outstanding which has been received since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Complaints Process has been reviewed by the Task Group and there is a separate report at this meeting on the Task Group's findings.

3.3 Independent Persons and Parish Representatives

The Independent Persons continue to meet on a regular basis with the Monitoring Officer to discuss any issues and generally keep up to date on standards matters. They are also involved in meetings with the Leicestershire group of Monitoring Officers which provides an opportunity to share experiences and learning with others in the same role.

With regard to the Parish Representatives, it is usually the case these are appointed early in the new Civic Year by the Melton Branch of the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Strong Corporate Governance is important in order to ensure high standards of conduct are maintained.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The implementation of the new requirements is impacting on administrative resources with particular regard to the Parish requirements.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 Of particular note in the Localism Act is the change making the non-registration of a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days a criminal offence.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no specific community safety implications in this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed and outlines the Council's responsibilities with regard to matters within the report under the Localism Act.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks associated with the report are considered to relate to managing the requirements of the Localism Act and the implications of this not being followed by Councillors impacting on the Council's decision-making process and reputation.

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low		1		
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
				Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Decisions of the Sub Committees challenged due to processes not followed in line with legislation and the Council's agreed process.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 Publishing the Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest forms and information on the Councillor Complaints process to the website encourages paper free access to information and helps to meet the Council's green targets.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 There is consultation with the Independent Persons on Member complaints that are referred to the Sub Committees as well as with the Parish Representatives on Parish Councillor complaints.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All indirectly.

Contact Officer: Angela Tebbutt, Monitoring Officer
Date: June 2016
Appendices: None.
Background Papers: Localism Act 2011
Minutes of Council Meeting held on 18 July 2012
Minutes of Council Meeting held on 17 July 2013
Minutes of Council Meeting held on 11 December 2013
Previous Minutes of Standards Committee
Previous Minutes of Governance Committee
Reference: Governance/2016-17/280616/Code of Conduct – Update on Progress