

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

26 MARCH 2019

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 be noted.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests

Following the Borough and Parish elections on 2 May 2019, both Borough and Parish Councillors will be required to complete a new Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) form within 28 days of their election. This is a legal requirement and to not disclose this information is a criminal offence.

3.2 Complaints

At the time of writing the report, three complaints have been processed and closed since the last meeting and two new complaints have been received.

3.3 Independent Persons and Parish Representatives

The Independent Person has been consulted on complaints as required under the Member Complaints Process.

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 Any financial implications are able to be met from existing resources. However following the Borough and Parish elections the registering of Members' interests and publishing these to the website will have a significant impact on the Council's Democratic Services resources.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 The Localism Act includes that the non-registration of a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days is 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	Catastrophic 4

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 the Member 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 and Parish Representatives are to be consulted on Parish Councillor complaints.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All indirectly.

Contact Officer:	Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer
Date:	March 2019
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/2018-19/260319/Code of Conduct – Update on Progress