

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**STANDARDS AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 JUNE 2023****REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME/COMPLAINTS****REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER (DIRECTOR LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE)****PART A – SUMMARY REPORT****1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To inform and update Members in respect of Code of Conduct and Complaint matters.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Standards and Resources Committee notes the contents of the update on Code of Conduct and Complaint Matters

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The work of the Committee underpins the work of the Council and delivery of the Council Plan objectives
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	Not required.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	Standards and Resources Committee 8 June 2023	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	None
LEGAL ISSUES	No	None
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	None	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.1 *Code of Conduct/Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Forms*

- 4.2 There is currently one active Code of Conduct complaint which relates to a former District member.
- 4.3 One further complaint received since the last meeting was dismissed at the initial assessment stage. This complaint related to a parish member.
- 4.4 Full training on the Code of Conduct was provided to members on 16 May 2023; the session was recorded and is available to any member to view. The Monitoring Officer is due to give a presentation on the Code of Conduct at the Parish Summit being held on 8 June.

Local Government Ombudsman (LGO)

- 4.5 There have been two new decisions from the Local Government Ombudsman since the last meeting. The first complaint related to planning enforcement. In the first case, which can be seen at Appendix 1 to this report, the LGO did not investigate as there was no evidence of fault by the Council.

The second case involved a dispute around licensing enforcement with the LGO finding no fault in how the Council acted. The decision can be seen at Appendix 2.

Formal Complaints

- 4.5 In terms of complaints that have gone to stage 2 of the Council's own complaints procedure (which is the step before an Ombudsman complaint) we have had 0 complaints upheld in the municipal year 2023/24 to date.

Data Protection

- 4.6 A full update in respect of data protection will be brought to the next meeting of this committee.

Work programme

- 4.14 The proposed work programme for 2023/24 is set out below:

8 June 2023

- Setting of work programme

14 September 2023

- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme
- Elections report post May 2023 elections
- Data Protection report

23 November 2023

- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme
- Annual report of the Local Government Ombudsman
- Elections Act 2022 update

25 January 2024

- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme
- Elections Act 2022 Update

28 March 2024

- Annual Corporate Health and Safety Update
- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme
- Employment trends

If Members have any items they wish to add to the work programme they should let the Monitoring Officer know. A report updating on progress against this programme will come to each meeting of the Committee and identifying any potential additional items or changes to the programme.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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