

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME/COMPLAINTS

REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER (CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE)

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

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

2. 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 23 November 2023	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	None
LEGAL ISSUES	No	None
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	None	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3.1 *Code of Conduct/Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Forms*

3.2 There are currently two active Code of Conduct complaints. Both of these relate to Parish Council members. The complaints are at the time of writing, undergoing initial assessment.

Local Government Ombudsman (LGO)

- 3.5 There has been one new decision from the Local Government Ombudsman since the last meeting. In this case, the LGO found the Council was at fault in respect of the handling of a planning application but that the apology that had already been provided by the Council to the complainant was sufficient remedy. This can be seen at Appendix 1.

Formal Complaints

- 3.6 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

- 3.7 The Data Protection Policy was updated and approved at the last meeting of this Committee. There have been no significant data breaches that require reporting to the Information Commissioner's Office or to the data subjects.

Work programme

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

8 June 2023

- Setting of work programme - COMPLETED

14 September 2023

- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme – COMPLETED
- Annual report of the Local Government Ombudsman – COMPLETED
- Elections report post May 2023 elections – COMPLETED
- Data Protection report – COMPLETED

23 November 2023

- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme – ON AGENDA
- Elections Act 2022 update – ON AGENDA
- Health and Safety Policy Update – NEW ITEM – ON AGENDA

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

None

8. RECOMMENDATION

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

Report prepared by: Lorraine Fowkes – Corporate Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)