

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**STANDARDS AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 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 26 January 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 are currently three active Code of Conduct complaints. Three complaints were referred for investigation and an independent investigating officer has been appointed. Two of these complaints will be proceeding to a hearing before the Standards (Hearings) Sub-Committee shortly. Two investigations relate to parish council members and one to a District member.
- 4.3 One further complaint received since the last meeting was dismissed at the initial assessment stage. This complaint related to a district member.
- 4.4 Full training on the Code of Conduct will form part of the Member Induction Programme post May 2023 elections.

Local Government Ombudsman (LGO)

- 4.5 There have been two new decisions from the Local Government Ombudsman since the last meeting. Both complaints were relating 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 long-running dispute around planning 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 2022/23 to date.

Data Protection

- 4.6 A full update in respect of data protection was due to come to the January 2023 meeting of this committee but has been delayed and will be brought to the March meeting.

Work programme

- 4.14 The work programme for 2022/23 is set out below:

16 June 2022

- Setting of work programme - completed
- Code of Conduct – Arrangements - completed

15 September 2022 revised date 13 October

- Annual report of the Local Government Ombudsman – completed
- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme - completed
- Elections update – completed
- Members Allowances – Process for IRP – completed

24 November 2022

- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme - completed
- Update on GDPR – deferred to January 2023
- Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel on Member Allowances - completed

26 January 2023

- Employment trends – deferred to March 2023
- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme – on agenda
- Polling Station Review Report – on agenda
- Elections Act 2022 Update – additional item
- Update on GDPR (deferred to March)

9 March 2023

- Annual Corporate Health and Safety Update
- Update on GDPR/data protection
- Review of Conduct/Complaints/Work Programme
- Employment trends (from January meeting)

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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