



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Standards Committee

2 July 2018

Cases and Work Update 2018 -2019

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides information on the number of complaints received since the implementation of the new standards regime from July 2012. It also aims to help in identifying areas where training or education may assist Councillors' understanding of the regime's requirements.

2. Recommendation

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the report be noted.

3. Details

- 3.1. As previously reported to the Committee, in June 2012, Council agreed a Councillor Code of Conduct in line with provisions within the Localism Act 2011. It also agreed to retain a Standards Committee. Council requested that the Code and the Committee's role and terms of reference be reviewed after a year. At its meeting on 25 July 2013, the Standards Committee undertook this review and its report and recommendations were presented to Council in September 2013.
- 3.2. At its meeting in September 2013, Council upheld the Standards Committee's recommendations with no changes being made to the Committee's composition or terms of reference. In December 2013, Council agreed the appointment of John Baggaley as the Council's Independent Person for standards as required by the Localism Act. At the Standards Committee's request, Mr Baggaley is invited to attend its meetings in order that he is aware of its role and work.
- 3.3. In relation to complaints received since the implementation of the existing standards regime (from the 1 July 2012), there have been a total of 51 cases. Details of these cases have been periodically reported to the Committee, with the last report in January 2018.
- 3.4. Cases 01/13 to 1/17 were contained in the previous report to Committee considered in June 2017. Cases 2/17 to 14/17 were reported at the October 2017 meeting. Case 1/18 was reported at the April 2018 meeting. The new cases received since the last report are set out in the table attached as **Appendix A**. Each of these cases has been dealt with by the Monitoring Officer giving due regard to the published Councillor Complaints Procedure. Where appropriate the Independent Person has been consulted.

3.5. The table at **Appendix A** indicates the date of complaint, if it related to a Borough, Parish or Town Councillor, if the complaint was made by another Borough, Parish or Town Councillor and what action was taken to address the complaint. Historical information is in shaded boxes, and fresh information is in white background boxes.

3.6. Since the last report to the Committee a further three cases have been received, being complaints from two Borough Councillors about actions of another Borough Councillor and one case from a member of the public about actions of a Borough Councillor. All of these cases have been rejected following initial appraisal.

4. Other Work

4.1. During the year, the Monitoring Officer has been available to provide support to questions raised by individuals.

4.2. Since the last meeting invitations have been made for presentations to Parish Councils but at the time of writing this report have not been arranged.

4.3. The training and development work was reported to the last meeting and is programmed to deliver induction training following the May 2019 elections

4.4. Proposals in relation to the Code of Conduct are the subject of a separate report on this agenda.

5. Implications

5.1. Finance

There are no direct financial implications.

5.2. Legal

There are no specific legal implications

5.3. Corporate Priorities

Delivery of an effective Standards regime supports the Council's priority of *'Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life –Our residents'*

5.4. Other Implications

None

For more information contact:	Julian Crowle Monitoring Officer jcrowle@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices (if any):	Appendix A: Summary of new cases from January 2018

Appendix A**Summary of new cases from January 2018**

Case Ref	Date received	RBC/Parish Council	Complainant	Independent Person consulted	Decision and date
1/18	2/1/2018	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	No	Further details of complaint received. Complaint rejected following initial appraisal
2/18	15/3/2018	Borough Council	Borough Councillor	Yes	Complaint rejected following initial assessment
3/18	15/3/2018	Borough Council	Borough Councillor	Yes	Complaint rejected following initial assessment
4/18	16/4/2018	Borough Council	Member of the public	Yes	Complaint rejected following initial appraisal