



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Standards Committee

26 November 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. In June 2012 the 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 54 cases (to include cases mentioned below). Details of these cases have been periodically reported to the Committee, with the last report in October 2018.
- 3.4. Since the date of the last meeting five complaints have been received.
- 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.

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 to comment on the draft Code of Conduct and Social Media Guidance. Details of responses are set out at Appendix B. Responses have been received from three Parish Council's in the form of an acknowledgement. No comments have been received.
- 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

5. Implications

5.1. Finance

There are no direct financial implications

5.2 Equality & Diversity

All complaints are considered with reference to the Council's Equality scheme

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:	Sanjit Sull Monitoring Officer ssull@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices (if any):	Appendices:

Appendix A

Summary of new cases from October 2018

Case Ref	Date received	RBC/Parish Council	Complainant	Independent Person consulted	Decision and date
	26/09/2018	County/ Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Member of the Public	Yes	Complaint rejected following initial assessment
	02/10/2018	Keyworth Parish Council	Member of the Public	Yes	At initial assessment stage
	25/10/2018	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Borough/Town Councillor	Yes	At initial assessment stage
	23/10/2018	Gotham Parish Council	Members of the public (three complainants)	Yes	At initial assessment stage
	05/11/2018	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Borough /Town Councillor	Yes	At initial assessment stage