



Standards Committee

Monday, 4 October 2021

Cases and Work Update 2020-2021

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides the Standards Committee with information on the number of complaints received since the Standards Committee on 22 February 2021. 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 Committee receive and note the report.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

To advise members of the Committee of complaints received by the Monitoring Officer, and to demonstrate good governance.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. A summary of complaints received since the implementation of the existing Standards regime (June 2012) are set out in the table at Appendix 1.
- 4.2. Since implementation of the existing standards regime, there have been a total of 102 cases (to include cases mentioned herein). Details of these cases have been periodically reported to the Committee, with the last report in February 2021.
- 4.3. Since the date of the last meeting, 3 Code of Conduct complaints have been received by the Monitoring Officer.
- 4.4. The table at Appendix A confirms the date of the complaint, if it related to a Borough, Parish or Town Councillor, if the complaint was made by a member of the public, another Borough, Parish or Town Councillor, the nature of the complaint, and action taken to address the complaint.
- 4.5. Where complaints were not accepted under the Code, the details have not been included as to do so would be misleading, and could be seen to misrepresent the nature of complaints received.

5. Other Work

- 5.1. During the year, the Monitoring Officer has been available to provide support on questions raised by Councillors.
- 5.2. The Member Development Group continues to develop the Councillors training programme, the Monitoring Officer is available to support the Group.
- 5.3. In accordance with the Best Practice Principles adopted by Council two independent persons, Helen Richardson and Christopher Richards have been offered the position for a fixed two year period subject to approval by Full Council (September 2021). It is proposed that the current independent person John Baggaley be retained for a period of 12 months from September 2021 to support them transition into the role.
- 5.4. A separate report is presented to the Standards Committee for consideration of the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

- 6.1 None identified.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications the Independent Person roles will be funded through existing budgets.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications

7.3. Equalities Implications

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

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no Section 17 Implications.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Delivery of an effective Standards regime supports the Council's priority of ' <i>Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life</i> '
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	
The Environment	

9. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee receive and note the report.

For more information contact:	Sanjit Sull - Monitoring Officer ssull@rushcliffe.gov.uk 0115 9148215
Background papers available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix A - Code complaints

Appendix A

Update on cases from 26 November 2018

Case Ref	Date received	RBC/Parish Council	Complainant	Independent Person consulted	Decision and date
	02/10/2018	Keyworth Parish Council	Parish Councillor	Yes	Investigation report received, MO and IP reviewing resolution with Subject Member.
	25/10/2018	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Borough/Town Councillor	Yes	Complaint review, no formal action.
	23/10/2018	Gotham Parish Council	Members of the public (three complainants)	Yes	Complaint review, no action.
	05/11/2018	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Borough /Town Councillor/ County Councillor	Yes	Complaint review, no formal action.

Summary of new cases from report to committee 26 November 2018

Case Ref	Date received	RBC/Parish Council	Complainant	Independent Person consulted	Decision and date
	07/11/2018	RBC	Member of the Public	Yes	Complaint review, no action.
	15/11/2018	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Town Councillor	No	Complaint review, no action.
	14/11/2018	Bingham Town Council	Borough /Town Councillor	No	Complaint review, no action.

Case Ref	Date received	RBC/Parish Council	Complainant	Independent Person consulted	Decision and date
	03.12.2018	Wysall and Thorpe in the Glebe PC	Member of the public	Yes	Complaint review, no action.
	18.12.2018 (linked complaint received 13.11.18)	Bingham Town Council x 3	Member of the public	Yes	1 x Complaint: no action, 1x Complaint, local resolution (apology) 1x Complaint referred for formal investigation.
	21.01.2019	Newton PC	Parish Councillor	Yes	Complaint withdrawn

Summary of new cases from report to committee 12 March 2019

Case Ref	Date received	RBC/Parish Council	Complainant	Independent Person consulted	Decision and date
	25.03.2019	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Town Council Employee	Yes	Referred for formal investigation
	11.03.2019	Borough Council	Borough Councillor	No	Complaint not accepted under code

Summary of new cases from report to committee 1 July 2019

Case Ref	Date Received	RBC/Parish	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Independent Person Consulted	Decision and Date
	25.03.2019	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Town Council Employee		Yes	Local resolution accepted
	06.06.2019	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	N/A	Yes	Complaint not accepted under code
	20.06.2019	Cotgrave Parish Council	Member of public	N/A	Yes	Complaint not accepted under code
	23.06.2019	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Town Council Employee	N/A	Yes	Complaint not accepted under code
	01.07.2019	Tollerton Parish Council	Member of public	N/A	Yes	Complaint not accepted under code
	04.07.2019	Bradmore Parish Council	Member of public	N/A	Yes	Complaint not accepted under code
	15.07.2019	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Town Councillor	Confidential procedural matters	Yes	On hold pending internal determination of issue giving rise to complaint
	04.07.2019	Borough Council and Bingham Town Council	Town Councillor	N/A	Yes	Complaint not accepted under code

Summary of new cases from report to Committee 23 September 2019

Case Ref	Date Received	RBC/Parish	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Independent Person Consulted	Decision
	18.11.2019	Sutton Bonington Parish Council	Member of the public	N/A	No	Complaint not accepted under code
601	03.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
603	03.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
604	09.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
605	10.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
614	18.06.2020	Orston Parish Council	Member of the public	Inappropriate use of social media	Yes	Subject member resigned therefore complaint not proceeded with
615	17.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
616	18.06.2020	Orston Parish Council	Member of the public	Inappropriate use of social media	Yes	Subject member resigned therefore complaint not proceeded with
621	18.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
625	18.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
628		Rushcliffe Borough Councillor	Member of the public	Councillor comment on planning application	No	Complaint not accepted under the code

Case Ref	Date Received	RBC/Parish	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Independent Person Consulted	Decision
633	24.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Town Councillor	Meeting procedures	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
637	29.06.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	No (given nature of complaint independent persons views sought previously)	Complaint not accepted under the code
664	28.07.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	No (given nature of complaint independent persons views sought previously)	Complaint not accepted under the code
665	31.07.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	No (given nature of complaint independent persons views sought previously)	Complaint not accepted under the code
666	05.08.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Meeting procedures	No (given nature of complaint independent persons views sought previously)	Complaint not accepted under the code

670	10.08.2020	Rushcliffe Borough Councillor	Member of the public	Planning Application		Complaint under review
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Summary of new cases from report to Committee 28 September 2020

Case Ref	Date Received	RBC/Parish	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Independent Person Consulted	Decision
695	28.09.2020	Rushcliffe Borough Councillor	Rushcliffe Borough Councillor/Town Councillor	Inappropriate comments during a Council meeting	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
706	25.10.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the Public	Application of dispensations	Yes	Complaint referred for formal investigation
707	26.10.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the Public	Decision making	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
735	13.11.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the Public	Bullying and harassment	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
760	4.12.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the Public	Breach of code of conduct in relation to objectivity, openness, accountability, honesty and leadership: public speaking at Town Council meetings, referral to matters to confidential business	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code

769	17.12.2020	Bingham Town Council	Town Councillor	Application of employment procedures	Yes	Complaint referred for formal investigation
770	20.12.2020	Bingham Town Council	Town Councillor	Application of employment procedures	Yes	Complaint referred for formal investigation
771	1.1.2021	Bingham Town Council	Town Council employee	Application of employment procedures	Yes	Complaint referred for formal investigation
773	22.12.2020	Bingham Town Council	Member of the public	Application of dispensations	Yes	Complaint referred for formal investigation

Summary of new cases from report to Committee 22 February 2021

Case Ref	Date Received	RBC/Parish	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Independent Person Consulted	Decision
811	09.03.2021	Bingham Town Council	Town Councillor	Inappropriate social media post	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code
832	30.03.2021	Rushcliffe Borough Councillor	Parish Councillor	Inappropriate behaviour at Parish Council meeting	Yes	Complaint under review
891	16.06.2021	Bradmore Parish Council	Member of the public	Declaration of interest	Yes	Complaint not accepted under the code