

Subject:	Standards Update		
Date of Meeting:	19th September 2017		
Report of:	Head of Law and Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis	Tel: 29-1500
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

1.1 This report updates Members on Standards-related matters.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That this Committee notes the information provided in the Report on member complaints and on standards-related matters.

3. MEMBER-RELATED COMPLAINTS

The last report to the Committee, in July 2017, noted that all complaints previously reported on had been resolved, and that no complaints remained outstanding at that time. The position remains the same at the time of publication of this report: there are no formal complaints awaiting resolution to report on.

4. MEMBER TRAINING**Member training on the Code of Conduct and related matters**

4.1 In July 2017, all members were invited to a training session. This aimed to enhance attendees' understanding of the provisions of the Localism Act which regulate the conduct of elected members. Its objective was to refine existing awareness of the local Code of Conduct for Members and of the other, related, arrangements which Brighton & Hove City Council has adopted in response to the requirements of the law.

4.2 The training generated positive feedback and as a result, a second session has been scheduled for the autumn for those members who were not able to attend.

4.3 As well as updating members and offering them the opportunity to work through a number of scenarios, the session also provided the opportunity for members to feed back on the Council's arrangements .

- 4.4 It was noted that although the Code of Conduct and other aspects of BHCC's arrangements had recently been reviewed in some detail, the Council's Practice Note on Publicity and the Use of Council Facilities would benefit from being reviewed to ensure that it is up to date with technological changes as well as with current practice. As a result, plans are underway to review that document (which forms part of the Council's Constitution) and to bring a revised version of it to this Committee for consideration.

5. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Council is obliged under the Localism Act to make arrangements for maintaining high standards of conduct among members and to make arrangements for the investigation of complaints. The current arrangements and the proposals in this Report reflect this. No alternative proposals are suggested.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 6.1 No need to consult with the local community has been identified.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this Report, which aims to assist the Committee in discharging its responsibilities for overseeing that high standards of conduct which are compliant with local requirements are maintained.

8. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 8.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendation in this Report. All activity referred to has been, or will be, met from existing budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 07/09/17

Legal Implications:

- 8.2 These are covered in the body of the Report

Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson

Date: 22.08.17

Equalities Implications:

- 8.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this Report

Sustainability Implications:

- 8.4 There are no sustainability implications arising from this Report

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 8.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

