



**Report Reference Number:** C/22/10

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**To:** Council  
**Date:** 13 December 2022  
**Ward(s) Affected:** All  
**Author:** Alison Hartley, Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council  
**Lead Officer:** Alison Hartley, Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council

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**Title: Report of the Monitoring Officer 2022 – Standards Arrangements**

**Summary:**

This report covers the operation of the current standards regime for Selby District Council and Parish Councils (which include Town Councils) within Selby District. It considers the complaints history and concludes that the arrangements are satisfactory and meet legal duties. Complaints continue to be processed and considered and the Independent Persons are extremely diligent in responding to consultation. The Independent Persons appointments have been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**Recommendation:**

**To note the content of the report.**

**Reasons for recommendation:**

To ensure that high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-optees are promoted and maintained.

**1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 Under section 27 of the Localism Act the Council is under a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-optees. The primary responsibility for the discharge of this duty falls to the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.2 The Monitoring Officer ensures that Councillors are provided with information about what interests must be registered and declared, compiles and maintains a register of such interests and deals with complaints about the conduct of Councillors when acting in the capacity of Councillor. Under the legislation the District Council Monitoring Officer is also responsible for registering interests

for and dealing with standards complaints relating to individual Parish Councillors.

## **2. The Report**

2.1 Four complaints were received between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022. All complaints concerned Parish Councillors. All concerned allegations of disrespect and all were rejected at assessment stage.

2.2 By way of comparison, nine complaints were received between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Six of the complaints concerned Parish Councillors and three concerned District Councillors. One of the District Councillor complaints was rejected at assessment stage. One was withdrawn by the complainant. The other District Councillor complaint was resolved locally, with advice given to the Councillor concerned about declaration of interests. Two of the Parish complaints were rejected at assessment stage. Breaches were found in two Parish cases and were resolved locally with apology and mediation advised. One Parish complaint was assessed and found to be a trivial matter between parish councillors and so no further action was taken by the Monitoring Officer. One of the Parish complaints remains outstanding. It has been assessed by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Persons and an Investigating Officer has been appointed. The investigation is underway at the time of writing.

## **3. Implications**

### **3.1 Legal Implications**

The Council should take positive steps to discharge the s 27 duty. The report indicates that the duty is being discharged correctly.

### **4.2 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

### **4.3 Policy and Risk Implications**

None.

### **4.4 Corporate Plan Implications**

None.

### **4.5 Resource Implications**

None.

### **4.6 Other Implications**

None.

**4.7 Equalities Impact Assessment**

None.

**5. Conclusion**

That the regime is operating effectively.

**6. Background Documents**

None.

**7. Appendices**

Appendix A – Standards Report 2022

**Contact Officer:**

Alison Hartley, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer  
Selby District Council

[ahartley@selby.gov.uk](mailto:ahartley@selby.gov.uk)