



Report Reference Number: C/18/06

To: Council
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Status: Non Key Decision
Ward(s) Affected: All
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Lead Executive Member: Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
Lead Officer: Gillian Marshall, Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council

Title: Report of the Monitoring Officer 2018 – Standards Arrangements

Summary:

This report covers the operation of the current standards regime for Selby District Council and Parish Councils within Selby District. It considers the complaints history and concludes that the arrangements are satisfactory and meet legal duties but the Council must maintain efforts to speed up the complaints process.

Recommendations:

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 complaints relating to Town and Parish Councillors.

2. The Report

- 2.1 In 2018 4 complaints were received. One was in respect of a District Councillor and was not upheld. The other three were against Parish Councillors. Two were rejected at assessment stage and one is still under investigation.
- 2.2 By way of comparison, last year (December 2016 – December 2017), the Monitoring Officer received 8 complaints; two complaints were made against District Councillors; six related to Parish Councillors involving four Parish Councils. Two were not upheld and four were still awaiting a decision at the time of the annual report. Two of those were in respect of Hemingbrough and were resolved locally by the MO attending the Parish Council to meet with Councillors and discuss the conduct of meetings. The other two were also locally resolved.

3. Implications

3.1 Legal Implications

The Council should take positive steps to discharge the s27 duty. The report indicates that the duty is being discharged correctly.

4.2 Financial Implications

None

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 - The Report of the Monitoring Officer

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