

Notice of Standards Committee

Date: Tuesday, 29 April 2025 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr V Ricketts

Vice Chairman:

Cllr A Chapmanlaw

Cllr S Armstrong
Cllr E Connolly

Cllr D Farr
Cllr R Pattinson-West

Cllr B Nanovo

Independent persons:

Mr P Cashmore

Mr I Sibley

All Members of the Standards Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6346>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Louise Smith on 01202 128291 on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17 April 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Members.

2. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2025.

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5. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution, which is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday on Wednesday 23 April 2025 [midday 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday on Monday 28 April 2025 [midday the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Friday 11 April 2025 [10 working days before the meeting].

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer

To retrospectively report the dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer for the time period 11 January 2025 to 17 April 2025.

11 - 14

7.	Code of Conduct Complaints - Review	15 - 26
<p>This report provides Members with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against councillors received or concluded since the last report to the Committee in February 2025.</p> <p>The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of BCP Council and the Town and Parish Councils, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and considering the outcome of commissioned independent investigations.</p>		
8.	Forward Plan	27 - 28
<p>To consider the Standards Committee's forward plan of work and schedule of forthcoming meetings.</p>		
9.	Exclusion of Press and Public	
<p>In relation to the items of business appearing below, the Committee is asked to consider the following resolution: -</p> <p>'That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.'</p> <p>NOTE: The exemption is in relation to the appendices attached to the public reports for these agenda items.</p>		
10.	Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaints BCP 172, BCP 186, BCP 192 and BCP 195	29 - 158
<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the conclusions of the investigations following complaints made about a Councillor of BCP Council under references BCP 172, BCP 186, BCP 192 and BCP 195. The Investigator's Reports are attached at Exempt Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Investigator concludes that in respect of both complaints, there has not been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's reports.</p>		
11.	Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaint BCP 193	159 - 228
<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the Conclusion of the investigation following a complaint made about a Councillor of BCP Council under reference BCP 193. The investigator's report is attached at Exempt Appendix 1. The investigator concludes that there has not been a breach of the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's report.</p>		

**12. Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaints
TPC-013 and TPC-014**

229 - 332

This report provides the Standards Committee with the conclusions of the investigations following complaints made about a Councillor of Christchurch Town Council under references TPC-013 and TPC-014. The Investigator's reports are attached at exempt appendices 1 and 2. The Investigator concludes that in respect of both complaints, there has been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's reports and, if supported, determine appropriate remedies.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 February 2025 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr V Ricketts – Chair

Cllr A Chapmanlaw – Vice-Chair

Present: Cllr P Canavan (In place of Cllr E Connolly), Cllr B Nanovo and
Cllr G Wright (In place of Cllr D Farr)

Present Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr R Pattinson-West, Mr Ian Sibley
Virtually:

25. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr E Connolly, Cllr D Farr and Paul Cashmore.

26. Substitute Members

Notification was received that Cllr P Canavan was substituting for Cllr E Connolly and Cllr G Wright was substituting for Cllr Farr for this meeting.

27. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

28. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record for the Chair to sign.

29. Public Issues

Two public questions were received from Mr Alex McKinstry in relation to Agenda Item 6 – Code of conduct Complaints Review:

Question 1

This relates to the review of code of conduct complaints (Item 6 on tonight's agenda). Complaint BCP-177 was submitted by me on 4 April 2024. Having received a reply from the subject councillor, the Committee decided to ask the councillor for further information, and that information was requested on 3 June 2024. Has the councillor now provided that information, and if so, has it been forwarded to the Committee? Can I also ask whether the subject councillor has at any point sought extra time to provide this material; and if so, what timeframe were they given? (The information was requested 254 days ago.)

Response:

Whilst the Standards Committee publishes preferred timeframes for the progression of complaints there are occasions where the process does fall outside of the same. In adjudicating complaints, the Chair of the Standards Committee in consultation with Independent Persons and members of the committee consider each case on its merits and on occasions this may result in extended timeframes.

It is unfortunate that this particular complaint is taking an exceptional period of time however it is important to respect the complainant and the subject councillors right to a fair investigation and that all evidence received is carefully reviewed. We are hopeful that this complaint will be determined in the near future.

Question 2

Again regarding BCP-177: this complaint was scheduled to be dealt with two meetings ago - on 8 October 2024 - but the Committee took the view that, as there had been correspondence between the subject councillor and officers, it would be worth allowing the Committee to see that correspondence prior to making any determination. Has that correspondence been made available to the Committee so that they can potentially make a determination this evening? I ask this because the report for Item 6, paragraph 10, states: "The Committee must determine what course of action should now be taken to conclude the matters set out above." 315 days have now elapsed since this particular complaint was made.

Response:

As per question 1 we are hopeful that this complaint will be determined in the near future.

The following public statement was received from Mr Alex McKinstry in relation to Agenda Item 6 – Code of conduct Complaints Review:

"This relates to BCP-176, and the Committee may recall how the member was going to be referred to full Council for refusing to apologise for disrespectful conduct. The Item 6 report states that prior to full Council (on 3 November, to be precise), "the subject councillor provided the apology complying with the remedy". It is a fact however that the remedy imposed by this Committee was that the councillor apologise within 14 days of its determination (in other words, by 17 June 2024). The councillor's apology was not made until 139 days after that deadline, and 149 days after they told this Committee, in writing, that they would not comply with the sanction. In my view, the member should have been named at full Council for this long-standing contumacy, which breached 8.4 of the Code of Conduct plus the member's own declaration of office."

30. **Code of Conduct Complaints - Review**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer (MO) presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report provided Members with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against councillors received or concluded since the last report to the Committee in October 2024. Details of allegations/complaints were set out in the table at paragraph 8. As agreed at the last meeting, where a councillor was found to have potentially breached the Code, the table included reference to the categories which were upheld.

The Chair read out a statement on behalf of Cllr T Slade who was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Slade asked whether the Council's code of conduct should be reviewed to ensure that the councillors were subject to the same level of accountability in their personal conduct as in their role as elected members, particularly where the reputation of the Council was at risk. The Chair acknowledged the points raised. She explained that when the current national code of conduct was developed it was considered important to draw a distinction between councillors acting in their professional capacity and their right to have a personal life. Support for general principles – recent training

Members asked about the anticipated timescales for concluding those cases listed as pending. Delays were frustrating for complainants and subject councillors. The Deputy MO explained that the outcome of at least two of the investigations would be considered by Committee on 29 April 2025. A consultation meeting would be arranged to consider complaints which were at an earlier stage. The Chair advised that a review of the complaints procedure was due. This could result in a tightening of deadlines to ensure cases were concluded more quickly.

RESOLVED that the outcome of concluded complaints and the progress of those still outstanding be noted.

Voting: Unanimous

31. MHCLG Consultation: Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England

The Monitoring Officer (MO) presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Committee was reminded of the context for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation, "Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England", as outlined at the previous meeting on 21 January 2025. The lack of consistency in local codes of conduct and the mechanisms for dealing with complaints was noted. Members had made some initial comments on the

consultation at the previous meeting which could be taken forward when considering this item further. The Chair confirmed that the consultation had been circulated to all councillors to respond individually. The deadline for responses was 28 February 2025.

The MO highlighted the current position in relation to town and parish councils. She confirmed that as the principal area, BCP Council in the form of the MO and the Standards Committee, were required to manage the complaints process for the town and parish councils. Depending on outcomes, the Committee may need to consider the impact of the community governance review as a future piece of work. It may also have a bearing on member's views on whether to have a single code of conduct.

The Committee was asked whether it wished to submit a formal response to the consultation as a committee. Members agreed unanimously that they should take the opportunity to do so. The Monitoring Officer provided an introduction to each section of the consultation and Members proceeded to consider the questions which were applicable to them as a committee. Where there wasn't a consensus on a particular question, the majority view was taken. A copy of the questions and responses with a summary of comments made is appended to these minutes.

The Chair thanked all parties for their input into this item.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm

CHAIR

STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Report subject	Dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer
Meeting date	29 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To retrospectively report the dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer for the time period 11 January 2025 to 17 April 2025
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Standards Committee note the dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer for the time period 11 January 2025 to 17 April 2025</p>
Reason for recommendations	To support a robust ethical governance framework, the Standards Committee should be informed of decisions made in respect of Councillors and the application of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Janie Berry, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Information

Background

1. A dispensation was granted to all Councillors for the meetings held during March 2025, namely Overview & Scrutiny Board, Cabinet and Council, to enable all to fully and freely participate in the debate on the agenda item relating to the Community Governance Review. The dispensation was granted as many BCP Councillors were Charter Trustees and or Members of existing Town and Parish Councils.

Options Appraisal

2. As this report notes the retrospective granting of dispensations there are no alternative options available for consideration. The failure to grant a dispensation would have had the potential to adversely affect the debate of the item in question

Summary of financial implications

3. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

4. A dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with s33 Localism Act 2011. It is good practice for these decisions to be reported to the Standards Committee so as to promote integrity and transparency of decision making.

Summary of human resources implications

5. There are no human resources implications arising from this report

Summary of sustainability impact

6. There are no sustainability impact issues directly arising from this report

Summary of public health implications

7. There are no public health implications directly arising from this report

Summary of equality implications

There are none directly arising from this report

Summary of risk assessment

8. There are none directly arising from this report

Background papers

BCP Council Constitution

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 4 March 2025 – Agenda, Reports and Minutes

Cabinet – 5 March 2025 – Agenda, Reports and Minutes

Council – 25 March 2025 – Agenda, Reports and Minutes

Appendices

none

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Report subject	Code of Conduct Complaints - Review
Meeting date	29 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides Members with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against councillors received or concluded since the last report to the Committee in February 2025.</p> <p>The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of BCP Council and the Town and Parish Councils, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and considering the outcome of commissioned independent investigations.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>the outcome of concluded complaints and the progress of those still outstanding be noted.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>This is an opportunity for Members of the Committee to be appraised of details of completed complaints and any outstanding complaints of alleged breaches against the Code of Conduct. This is in accordance with the functions of the Committee and its duty to discharge functions in relation to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct within the Council and amongst Town and Parish Councils within the area.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	<p>Janie Berry, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer</p>
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Information

Background

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary and update of completed and ongoing complaints received regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct under the Localism Act 2011 against Councillors for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area, including parish and town councils.

Analysis

2. Details of allegations/complaints in relation to the Code of Conduct are outlined in the table set out in paragraph 7 to this report. Cases which were shown as closed in the previous report have been removed from this report.
3. The adopted arrangements for dealing with allegations of breach of the code of conduct for councillors now provides for an initial assessment by the Monitoring Officer, who may, if appropriate:
 - (a) reject the complaint on the grounds that it falls outside the scope of a valid Code of Conduct complaint;
 - (b) determine that there is no breach of the Code and no further action should be taken;
 - (c) where considered appropriate, enter into an early preliminary and informal dialogue with the complainant and the Councillor complained of, and agree a speedy informal resolution of the complaint; or
 - (d) refer the complaint to the Chair of Standards Committee for consideration.
4. Where complaints proceed to the Chair of the Standards Committee (in consultation with councillors of the Standards Committee, the Independent Persons and the Monitoring Officer (or their Deputy)), the Chair may decide whether:-
 - (a) there is no breach of the Code and no further action should be taken; or
 - (b) there is a potential breach of the Code and informal resolution is appropriate, to include for example mediation, training, apology, advice; or
 - (c) there is a potential breach of the Code and the Monitoring Officer should undertake or commission an investigation into the complaint with a view to a report then being considered by the Standards Committee.
5. The table contained in this report provides information about of the nature of the complaint, the assessment of the Monitoring Officer (where appropriate), the decision of the Chair (following consultation), any informal resolutions determined by Chair (where applicable), and the status of the complaint at the date of the report. Where a councillor is found to have potential breached the Code, the table includes reference to those categories which were upheld.
6. Specific detailed information regarding pending complaints has not been provided as this may be prejudicial to the conduct of the ongoing complaints process. Personal details have also not been included to protect both the identity of the subject councillors and the complainant, unless specific direction to the contrary has been expressed.

7. Table 1

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-172 22/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	<p>Referred to Monitoring officer for initial assessment.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review.</p> <p>Independent Investigator's final report received and included on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	Pending
BCP-177 04/04/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	<p>Referred to Monitoring officer for initial assessment.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the Chair requested the subject councillor to furnish additional information.</p> <p>Complaint to be reassessed at consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.</p>	Pending
BCP-186 22/05/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to promote equalities 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was referred to an independent investigator to review.</p> <p>Independent Investigator's final report received and included on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-192 15/07/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to promote equalities 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review.</p> <p>Independent Investigator final report received and included on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	Pending
BCP-193 25/07/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to treat others with respect Bullying or harassing a person Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage Misuse of Council resources 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review.</p> <p>Independent Investigator final report received and included on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	Pending
BCP-195 15/08/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to treat others with respect Bullying or harassing a person Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review.</p> <p>Independent Investigator final report received and included on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	Pending
BCP-198 06/01/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to treat others with respect Bullying or harassing a person Compromising, or attempting to compromise, the impartiality of anyone 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.</p>	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
	<p>who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage • Failure to disclose interests 		
BCP-199 29/01/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.	Pending
BCP-203 30/01/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Failure to promote equalities • Compromise impartiality of anyone who works for the local authority 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.	Pending
BCP-205 30/01/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-207 05/02/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Failure to promote equalities • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.	Pending
BCP-208 10/02/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer but insufficient evidence provided to demonstrate that subject councillor was acting in their capacity as a councillor. Complaint held in abeyance until 29/04/2025	On Hold
BCP-209 20/02/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.	Pending
BCP-210 03/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to comply with sanctions imposed following a finding of a breach of the code 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-212 11/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer before referring to the subject councillor for comments.	Pending
BCP-213 11/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to promote equalities • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer before referring to the subject councillor for comments.	Pending
BCP-214 21/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer before referring to the subject councillor for comments.	Pending
BCP-215 26/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer before referring to the subject councillor for comments.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-216 26/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Intimidating or attempting to intimidate a person involved in investigation 	Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer before referring to the subject councillor for comments.	Pending
BCP-217 02/04/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Failure to promote equalities • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Compromise impartiality of anyone who works for the local authority • Improper use of information • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage • Misuse of council resources • Failure to undertake code of conduct training • Failure to cooperate with code of conduct investigation • Intimidating or attempting to intimidate a person involved in 	Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer before referring to the subject councillor for comments.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
	investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to comply with sanctions imposed following a finding of a breach of the code 		
Town and Parish Council Complaints			
TPC-013 30/04/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying or harassing a person • Failure to promote equalities • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review. Independent Investigator final report received and included on the agenda for this meeting.	Pending
TPC-014 03/05/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Failure to promote equalities • Compromise impartiality of anyone who works for the local authority • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage • Failure to undertake code of conduct training 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee. Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review. Independent Investigator final report received and included on the agenda for this meeting.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
TPC-021 02/01/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	<p>Complaint was previously submitted but supporting evidence was not forthcoming within the time permitted. The complaint was closed as incomplete. Supporting evidence has subsequently been provided and the complaint re-opened.</p> <p>Subject councillor response received.</p> <p>Complaint to be considered at Chair's consultation meeting on 22/04/2025.</p>	Pending
TPC-022 08/07/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review.</p> <p>Awaiting Independent Investigator's report.</p>	Pending
TPC-023 31/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying or harassing a person • Improper use of information • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	<p>Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer before referring to the subject councillor for comments.</p>	Pending

Summary of financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

9. The Council has a legal duty to respond to complaints made against councillors of allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Council has adopted procedures for handling complaints.

Summary of human resources implications

10. There are no direct manpower implications arising from this report, however, the Committee will be aware that the handling and processing of complaints is resource intensive. A high volume of complaints could require the need for additional resources. It is therefore critical that the committee continuously seeks to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by all councillors to help limit the number of complaints.

Summary of sustainability impact

11. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

12. There are no public health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

13. This report is reporting on the outcome of complaints made against councillors for alleged breaches of the Councillor's Code of Conduct and consequently there are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. The Code of Conduct includes a duty upon all councillors to promote equalities and to not discriminate unlawfully against any person. Equality implications are considered as an integral part of the complaints process.

Summary of risk assessment

14. There are no direct risks associated with this report.

Background papers

Records of complaints received by the Council under the references referred to in Table 1. These records contain exempt information (Categories 1 (Information relating to any individual) and 2 (Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual)).

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

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Standards Committee Work Plan and Schedule of Meetings

Subject	Meeting Date
Complaints update	Standing Item
Review of the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure	Date to be confirmed
Review of the Officer Member Protocol	Date to be confirmed
Review of gifts and hospitality	Date to be confirmed
Review of the Register of Interests	Date to be confirmed
Review of mandatory training including code of conduct training	Date to be confirmed
Standards Committee Annual Report to Council	Date to be confirmed
Review of Councillors Induction Programme	Date to be confirmed
Impact of Community Governance Review	Date to be confirmed
Communication Strategy on Standards within Town and Parish Councils	From October 2025

Future Meeting Dates: -

Tuesday 29 April 2025

Tuesday 1 July 2025

Tuesday 7 October 2025

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Tuesday 17 March 2026

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Report subject	Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaints BCP 172, BCP 186, BCP 192 and BCP 195
Meeting date	29 April 2025
Status	Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Executive summary	<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the conclusions of the investigations following complaints made about a Councillor of BCP Council under references BCP 172, BCP 186, BCP 192 and BCP 195. The Investigator's Reports are attached at Exempt Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Investigator concludes that in respect of both complaints, there has not been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's reports.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) BCP 172 the findings of the independent investigator that the subject councillor did not breach the Council's Code of Conduct is accepted and no further action be taken; b) BCP 186 the findings of the independent investigator that the subject councillor did not breach the Council's Code of Conduct is accepted and no further action be taken; c) BCP 192 the findings of the independent investigator that the subject councillor did not breach the Council's Code of Conduct is accepted and no further action be taken; d) BCP 195 the findings of the independent investigator that the subject councillor did not breach the Council's Code of Conduct is accepted and no further action be taken.
Reason for recommendations	<p>The investigations were conducted by an experienced independent investigator who undertook interviews with the complainants and the subject councillor before reaching a conclusion. The conclusions are based upon the current legal framework which sets out the parameters within which the councillors are subject to a Code of Conduct.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Janie Berry, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Council is required by the Localism Act 2011 to have in place a Code of Conduct for Councillors as well as a process for dealing with complaints under the Code. BCP Council has adopted the Local Government Association's model code of conduct, which has at its heart the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life (also known as the "Nolan Principles").
2. The Code demonstrates that the Council is committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct by its elected councillors. It also protects the public, fellow councillors and local authority officers and the reputation of local government.

BCP 172

3. On 22 March 2024, the Council received a complaint from the complainant alleging that the Subject BCP Councillor failed to comply with the Code when the subject councillor made an allegedly ill informed, crass and insensitive comment during a public meeting. The complainant alleged that the breach of the Code of Conduct had been breached as follows:
 - 1.1 *I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect;*
 - 1.2 *I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play*
 - 5.1 *I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute*
 - 6.1 *I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.*
4. Following consideration of the complaint by the Chair of the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Members of the Standards Committee, it was agreed that due to the nature of the allegations, that an independent investigation should be undertaken. The Monitoring Officer appointed Simon Goacher, Head of Local Government at Weightmans to undertake the independent investigation.

Outcome of the Investigation Report

5. The methodology and the evidence considered are set out within the investigator's report attached at Appendix 1
6. The report finds that the Code of Conduct has not been breached
7. A copy of the investigator's draft report was shared with both the complainant and the subject BCP Councillor and their responses are included in full at paragraphs 75-76 of the report.

BCP 186

8. On 22 May 2024, the Council received a complaint from the complainant alleging that the Subject BCP Councillor failed to comply with the Code when the subject councillor made a public speech allegedly to be "very anti-semitic". The complainant alleged that the Code of Conduct had been breached as follows:

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person

9. Following consideration of the complaint by the Chair of the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Members of the Standards Committee, it was agreed that due to the nature of the allegations, that an independent investigation should be undertaken. The Monitoring Officer appointed Simon Goacher, Head of Local Government at Weightmans to undertake the independent investigation.

Outcome of the Investigation Report

10. The methodology and the evidence considered are set out within the investigator's report attached at Appendix 2.
11. The report finds that the Code of Conduct has not been breached
12. A copy of the investigator's draft report was shared with both the complainant and the subject BCP Councillor and their responses are included in full at paragraphs 60-61 of the report.

BCP 192

13. On 15 July 2024, the Council received a complaint from the complainant alleging that the Subject BCP Councillor failed to comply with the Code when the subject councillor made a public speech relating to the Council's twinned relationship with Netanya and some comments were deemed to have negative implications. The complainant alleged that the Code of Conduct had been breached as follows

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person

14. Following consideration of the complaint by the Chair of the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Members of the Standards Committee, it was agreed that due to the nature of the allegations, that an independent investigation should be undertaken. The Monitoring Officer appointed Simon Goacher, Head of Local Government at Weightmans to undertake the independent investigation.

Outcome of the Investigation Report

15. The methodology and the evidence considered are set out within the investigator's report attached at Appendix 3
16. The report finds that the Code of Conduct has not been breached
17. A copy of the investigator's draft report was shared with both the complainant and the subject BCP Councillor and their responses are included in full at paragraphs 55-58 of the report.

BCP 195

18. On 15 August 2024, the Council received a complaint from the complainant alleging that the Subject BCP Councillor had harassed the complainant on social media for several months. The complainant alleged that the Code of Conduct had been breached as follows
 - 1.1 *I treat councillors and members of the public with respect*
 - 2.1 *I do not bully any person*
 - 5.1 *I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute*
 - 6.1 *I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else*
19. Following consideration of the complaint by the Chair of the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Members of the Standards Committee, it was agreed that due to the nature of the allegations, that an independent investigation should be undertaken. The Monitoring Officer appointed Simon Goacher, Head of Local Government at Weightmans to undertake the independent investigation.

Outcome of the Investigation Report

20. The methodology and the evidence considered are set out within the investigator's report attached at Appendix 4.
21. The report finds that the Code of Conduct has not been breached
22. A copy of the investigator's draft report was shared with both the complainant and the subject BCP Councillor and their responses are included in full at paragraphs 71-79 of the report.

Options Appraisal

23. The Committee may, following consideration, decide not to accept the recommendations of the independent investigator.

Summary of financial implications

24. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation that the Committee formally accept the conclusions of the investigator in relation to these complaints.

Summary of legal implications

25. The detailed legal basis for the investigations and reasons for the findings of the investigator are set out in the reports.
26. The Committee is recommended to accept the findings of the independent investigator.

Summary of human resources implications

27. There are no human resources implications arising from the recommended course of action.

Summary of sustainability impact

28. There are no sustainability impacts arising from the recommended course of action.

Summary of public health implications

29. There are no public health implications arising from the recommended course of action.

Summary of equality implications

30. The report provides the Committee with details and recommendations arising from an independent investigation. The independent investigator has to comply with the Council's Equality duties when conducting the investigation.

Summary of risk assessment

31. The Council has to act in accordance with the legal framework that exists, and the powers the Council has through its Standards Committee relating to conduct undertaken by councillors when acting in that capacity. Other regulatory regimes may come into play should they be appropriate where councillors are acting in their private capacity. The risk of not following recommendations is that the Council will be acting contrary to a clear recommendation of an independent investigator who has assessed the evidence and contrary to legal advice received.

Background papers

BCP Council Constitution

BCP Councillor Code of Conduct and Procedures for managing a Code of Conduct complaint

Exempt under paragraphs 1 and 2 – Evidence pack prepared by the Independent Investigator

Appendices

Appendix 1: BCP 172 – Exempt Report of the Independent Investigator – Paragraphs 1 and 2

Appendix 2: BCP 186 – Exempt Report of the Independent Investigator – Paragraphs 1 and 2

Appendix 3: BCP 192 – Exempt Report of the Independent Investigator – Paragraphs 1 and 2

Appendix 4: BCP 195 – Exempt Report of the Independent Investigator – Paragraphs 1 and 2

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Report subject	Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaint BCP 193
Meeting date	29 April 2025
Status	Public Report with Exempt Appendix
Executive summary	<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the Conclusion of the investigation following a complaint made about a Councillor of BCP Council under reference BCP 193. The investigator's report is attached at Exempt Appendix 1. The investigator concludes that there has not been a breach of the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's report.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>a) BCP 193 the findings of the independent investigator that the subject BCP Councillor did not breach the Council's Code of Conduct is accepted and no further action be taken.</p>
Reason for recommendations	The investigation was conducted by an experienced independent investigator who undertook interviews with the complainant and the subject councillor before reaching a conclusion. The conclusions are based on the current legal framework which sets out the parameters within which the councillors are subject to a Code of Conduct.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Janie Berry, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Council is required by the Localism Act 2011 to have in place a Code of Conduct for Councillors as well as a process for dealing with complaints under the Code. BCP Council has adopted the Local Government Association's model code of conduct, which has at its heart the Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the "Nolan Principles")
2. The Code demonstrates that the Council is committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct by its elected councillors. It also protects the public, fellow councillors and local authority officers and the reputation of local government.

BCP 193

3. On 25 July 2024, the Council received a complaint from the complainant alleging that the Subject BCP Councillor failed to comply with the Code as a result of an email circulated to BCP Councillors, the content of which the complainant objected to and subsequent events that arose from that. The complainant considered that the subject councillor had breached the following provisions in the BCP Council Code of Conduct:
 - 1.1 *I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.*
 - 2.1 *I do not bully any person*
 - 2.2 *I do not harass any person*
 - 5.1 *I do not bring my role or authority into disrepute*
 - 7.1 *I do not misuse council resources*
 - 7.2 *I will, when using the resources of the local authority or authorising their use by others:*
 - a) *act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and*
 - b) *ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.*
4. Following consideration of the complaint by the Chair of Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Persons and Members of the Standards Committee, it was agreed that due to the nature of the allegations, that an independent investigation should be undertaken. The Monitoring Officer appointed Simon Goacher, Head of Local Government at Weightmans to undertake the independent investigation.

Outcome of the Investigation Report

5. The methodology and evidence considered are set out within the investigator's report, attached at Appendix 1.
6. The report finds that there was no evidence that the Code had been breached.
7. A copy of the investigator's draft report was shared with both the complainant and the subject BCP Councillor and their responses are included in full at paragraphs 95-99 of the report.

Options Appraisal

8. The Standards Committee is asked to consider the final report prepared by Mr Goacher at its meeting and the recommendation to accept the findings. However, the Committee may make alternative findings and or determination as it sees fit based on the report and evidence placed before it.

Summary of financial implications

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

10. The detailed legal basis for the investigation and reasons for the findings of the investigator are set out in the report at Appendix 1. The Committee is recommended to accept the findings of the independent investigator.

Summary of human resources implications

11. There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

12. There are no sustainability impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.

Summary of public health implications

13. There are no public health impacts arising from the recommendations in this report

Summary of equality implications

14. The report provides the Committee with details and recommendations arising from an independent investigation. The independent investigator has to comply with the Council's Equality's Policy when conducting the investigation.

Summary of risk assessment

15. The Council has to act in accordance with the legal framework that exists, and the powers the Council has through its Standards Committee relating to conduct undertaken by councillors when acting in that capacity. Other regulatory regimes may come into play should they be appropriate where councillors are acting in their private capacity. The risk of not following the recommendations is that the Council will be acting contrary to a clear recommendation of an independent investigator who has assessed the evidence, and contrary to the legal advice received.

Background papers

BCP Council Constitution

BCP Councillor Code of Conduct and Procedures for managing a Code of Conduct Complaint

Exempt under paragraphs 1 and 2 – Evidence pack prepared by the Independent Investigator

Appendices

Appendix 1 – BCP 193 Exempt Final Report of Independent Investigator – Paragraphs 1 and 2

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Report subject	Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct complaints TPC-013 and TPC-014
Meeting date	29 April 2025
Status	Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Executive summary	<p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the conclusions of the investigations following complaints made about a Councillor of Christchurch Town Council under references TPC-013 and TPC-014. The Investigator's reports are attached at exempt appendices 1 and 2. The Investigator concludes that in respect of both complaints, there has been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider this report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Investigator's reports and, if supported, determine appropriate remedies.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>(a) in relation to complaint TPC-013, the findings of the independent investigator, that the subject councillor did breach, in part, the Christchurch Town Council Code of Conduct be accepted and the committee determine what remedies or sanctions should be applied;</p> <p>(b) in relation to complaint TPC-014, the findings of the independent investigator, that the subject councillor did breach the Christchurch Town Council Code of Conduct be accepted and the committee determine what remedies or sanctions should be applied.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The investigations were conducted by an experienced independent investigator who undertook interviews with the complainants and the subject councillor before reaching a conclusion. The conclusions are based upon the current legal framework which sets out the parameters within which the councillors are subject to a Code of Conduct.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. All local authorities, including parish and town councils, are required by the Localism Act 2011 to have in place a Code of Conduct for councillors, and BCP Council is also required to have an adopted process for dealing with complaints under the Code. This report relates to complaints against a councillor of Christchurch Town Council. The Town Council has adopted the Local Government Association's model code of conduct, which has at its heart the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life (also known as the "Nolan Principles"), although at the time of the complaints referred to in this report, a local Code was in place.
2. The Code demonstrates that the Christchurch Town Council is committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct by its elected councillors. It also protects the public, fellow councillors and local authority officers and the reputation of local government.

TPC-013

3. On 30 April 2024, the Council received a complaint from the complainant alleging that the Subject Christchurch Town Councillor failed to comply with the Code when the subject councillor made, what were considered to be, unacceptable, hurtful and misogynistic comments in an email exchange. The complainant alleged that the Code of Conduct had been breached as follows:
 1. *He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful.*
 2. *He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory.*
 3. *He/she shall not seek to improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.*
4. Following consideration of the complaint by the Chair of the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Members of the Standards Committee, it was agreed that due to the nature of the allegations, that an independent investigation should be undertaken. The Deputy Monitoring Officer appointed Simon Goacher, Head of Local Government at Weightmans to undertake the independent investigation.

Outcome of the Investigation Report

5. The methodology and the evidence considered are set out within the investigator's report attached at Appendix 1.
6. The report finds that there has been a failure on the part of the subject councillor to comply with the Code of Conduct in respect of paragraph 1 of the Code referred to

above in paragraph 3, the reasons for which are set out in detail within the investigator's report.

7. The investigator considers the breach to be a minor breach and that an apology would be an appropriate remedy.
8. A copy of the investigator's draft report was shared with both the complainant and the subject Councillor and their responses are included in full at paragraphs 68-70 of the report.

Remedy

9. The Committee is asked to consider the investigator's report and to determine whether to uphold the decision and if so, what remedies should be applied.

TPC-014

10. On 3 May 2024, the Council received a complaint from the complainant alleging that the Subject Christchurch Town Councillor failed to comply with the Code when the subject councillor made unacceptable comments in emails to the complainant and on social media. The complainant alleged that the Code of Conduct had been breached as follows:

1. *He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful.*
2. *He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory.*

11. Following consideration of the complaint by the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Members of the Standards Committee, it was agreed that due to the nature of the allegations, that an independent investigation should be undertaken. The Deputy Monitoring Officer appointed Simon Goacher, Head of Local Government at Weightmans to undertake the independent investigation.

Outcome of the Investigation Report

12. The methodology and the evidence considered are set out within the investigator's report attached at Appendix 2.
13. The report finds that there has been a failure on the part of the subject councillor to comply with the Code of Conduct in respect of both paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Code referred to above in paragraph 10, the reasons for which are set out in detail within the investigator's report.
14. A copy of the investigator's draft report was shared with both the complainant and the subject Councillor and their responses are included in full at paragraphs 179-184 of the report.

Remedy

15. The Committee is asked to consider the investigator's report and to determine whether to uphold the decision and if so, what remedies should be applied.

Options Appraisal

16. The Committee may, following consideration, decide not to accept the recommendations of the independent investigator.

Summary of financial implications

17. There are no financial implications arising from the report, however, if the committee determine to apply certain remedies or sanctions there may be associated costs.

Summary of legal implications

18. The detailed legal basis for the investigations and reasons for the findings of the investigator are set out in the reports.
19. The Committee is recommended to consider the findings of the independent investigator.

Summary of human resources implications

20. There are no human resources implications arising from the report.

Summary of sustainability impact

21. There are no sustainability impacts arising from the report.

Summary of public health implications

22. There are no public health implications arising from the report.

Summary of equality implications

23. The report provides the Committee with details and recommendations arising from an independent investigation. The independent investigator has to comply with the Council's Equality duties when conducting the investigation.

Summary of risk assessment

24. The Council must act in accordance with the legal framework that exists, and the powers the Council has through its Standards Committee relating to conduct undertaken by councillors when acting in that capacity. Other regulatory regimes may come into play should they be appropriate where councillors are acting in their private capacity. The risk of not following recommendations is that the Council will be acting contrary to a clear recommendation of an independent investigator who has assessed the evidence and contrary to legal advice received.

Background papers

BCP Council Constitution

BCP Councillor Code of Conduct and Procedures for managing a Code of Conduct complaint

Exempt under paragraphs 1 and 2 – Evidence pack prepared by the Independent Investigator

Appendices

Appendix 1: TPC-013 – Exempt Report of the Independent Investigator – Paragraphs 1 and 2

Appendix 2: TPC-014 – Exempt Report of the Independent Investigator – Paragraphs 1 and 2

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