

COUNCIL

6 September 2023

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation to Council made at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26 July.

Amendments to the Code of Conduct Procedure December 2021

The Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure was revised in December 2021 when the Council adopted the new amended model Code of Conduct for councillors. The procedure was streamlined, and this has made it easier to deal with code of conduct complaints in a clearer and more transparent manner. However, owing to the volume of work experienced by the Standards Team, it is considered appropriate to incorporate some minor amendments to the procedure.

The procedure presently allows Deputy Monitoring Officers to deal with standards related matters only in the absence of the Monitoring Officer. The suggested revisions will allow the Monitoring Officer to delegate any standards related work to nominated deputies at any time and not just during periods of absence. This delegation is considered necessary owing to the volume of standards work that is presently being generated by parish councils throughout the District.

A further revision has been incorporated to allow the Monitoring Officer to vary the procedure when it is considered appropriate and desirable to do so. The Committee agreed to amend Section 10.1 of the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure to read:

The Monitoring Officer may vary this procedure in any particular instance where reasonable and justified and he or she is of the opinion that such variation is desirable and does not conflict with statutory requirements. Any variation will be communicated to relevant parties.

This will provide the Monitoring Officer and Standards Team with a greater degree of flexibility when dealing with code of conduct complaints.

Further remaining revisions of the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure were considered minor adjustments and shown in the Standards Committee report as tracked changes. A revision index will also be incorporated into the amended Code of Conduct Complaints procedure.

Standards Committee RESOLVED

To approve the amended Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure subject to Council approval.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

To recommend that full Council approved the amendments to the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure.