

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Report Title	Annual Code of Conduct Report 2022-2023			
Purpose of Report	This report sets out a summary of the Code of Conduct complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer between the period 1 November 2022 and 31 October 2023.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to note the report			
Consultation and Feedback	N/A			
Report Author	Claire Hughes, Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer) Email: claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	None			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	None			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. Summary of Code of Conduct Complaints

- 1.1 This report sets out a summary of the Code of Conduct complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer between the period 1 November 2022 and 31 October 2023.
- 1.2 The council, and all parish councils in the District, have a statutory duty under the Localism Act 2011 to 'promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority'.
- 1.3 The Monitoring Officer is responsible for dealing with allegations that councillors have failed to comply with the members' code of conduct and for administering the local standards framework.
- 1.4 In accordance with Section 28 Localism Act 2011 the council has adopted a code of conduct, and this has also been made available to all parish councils to inform the adoption of their own code.
- 1.5 During the period 1 November 2022 and 31 October 2023, the Monitoring Officer received thirteen Code of Conduct complaints as follows:

Date	Subject Council	Outcome
November 2022	Complaint regarding a member of Chalford Parish Council	Following an initial assessment and consultation with the Independent Person a decision notice was issued with the outcome of No Further Action
November 2022	Complaint regarding a member of Stroud District Council	Ongoing
December 2022	Complaint regarding a member of Stinchcombe Parish Council	Informal Resolution
February 2023	Complaint regarding a member of North Nibley Parish Council	Complaint withdrawn
March 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Berkeley Town Council	Following an initial assessment and consultation with the Independent Person a decision notice was issued with the outcome of No Further Action
March 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Hinton Parish Council	Informal Resolution
March 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Hinton Parish Council	Following an initial assessment and consultation with the Independent Person a decision notice was issued with the outcome of No Further Action
July 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Stroud District Council	This complaint was the subject of a standards hearing in August 2023 - full details are available on the councils website
July 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Stonehouse Town Council	Informal Resolution
August 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Stroud District Council	Following an initial assessment and consultation with the Independent Person a decision notice was issued with the outcome of No Further Action
September 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Longney and Epney Parish Council	Complaint Withdrawn
September 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Hinton Parish Council	Ongoing
October 2023	Complaint regarding a member of Hinton Parish Council	Rejected as outside of scope of standards regime

2. Implications

2.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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2.2 Legal Implications

Under the Localism Act 2011, the council has a duty to investigate complaints that a councillor of this council or of a parish and town council may have breached the Code. This report gives feedback to the Committee on the activity undertaken by the council in fulfilment of that duty.

One Legal

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2.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision].

2.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.