



Report to: Standards Committee, 13th March 2019

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Subject: COMPLAINTS MADE UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee note the report; and

1.2 That the Committee recommend the Council to amend the Code of Conduct, as set out in paragraph 3.1.

2. Background

2.1 Since the last meeting of the Committee one formal complaint was received. After consulting with the Independent Person, the Interim Monitoring Officer decided to take no further action. However as a result, the Interim Monitoring Officer, again, after consulting the Independent Person, proposed that the policy on Members' use of Council Resources should be amended to make one clarification, as explained below at paragraph 3.1.

2.2 A further "informal" complaint was made against another Member. The Monitoring Officer spoke to the Member concerned but no formal action was taken.

2.3 Another complaint was made by a Member concerning an administrative procedure rather than the Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person decided the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Code of Conduct for Members.

3. Preferred Option

3.1 It is proposed to amend the Code of Conduct to include a new sub clause referring specifically to the Guidance issued for Members on the use of Council Stationery. This would be a new sub clause 6(b) (iii) and read: "act in accordance with any guidance for Members issued by the Monitoring Officer on the use of Council stationery."

3.2 A copy of the Code of Conduct is attached (**Appendix 1**).

3.3 If the proposed amendment is approved by the Committee, a report on the amended Policy will be presented to full Council to adopt on the 26th March 2019.

4. Alternative Options Considered

4.1 Both the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person consider this to be the most appropriate action to take, having considered the complaint referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

None arising from this report.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

It is the role of the Committee to advise the City Council and its Parish Councils on the adoption and amendment of local Codes of Conduct for Councillors, protocols for member officer relations. The Code of Conduct forms part of the Constitution. Making changes to the Constitution is a function of the full Council.

5.3 Risk Implications

None arising from this report.

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

None arising from this report.

5.5 Equality Implications

None arising from this report.

5.6 Human Resources Implications

None arising from this report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications

None arising from this report.

5.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

None arising from this report.

Ward(s):

All

Contact Officer:

**Sian Stroud, tel: 01905 722019, Email:
sian.stroud@worcester.gov.uk**

Background Papers:

None