

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Audit & Corporate Governance Committee
DATE: 4th March 2021
CONTACT OFFICER: Hugh Peart Monitoring Officer
WARDS: All

PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITY – COUNCILLORS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the activity undertaken by the Council’s Monitoring Officer in relation to the Councillors’ Code of Conduct since the last report to the Committee on this subject in December 2020.

2. **Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to consider and note this report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

The delivery of all these strategic priorities is dependent on the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. This is underpinned by the Confidential Whistleblowing Code, the Councillors’ Code of Conduct and good governance arrangements being in place.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications arising specifically from this report. The cost of administering and enforcing the Councillors’ Code of Conduct is a cost to be considered as appropriate.

(b) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

The law relating to Councillors’ conduct is contained in the Localism Act 2011. Under Section 27 of that Act the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of the Council and, in discharging this duty, the Council must adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members of the Council when they are acting in that capacity. The Council must secure, by virtue of Section 28 of that Act, that such code adopted by it is, when viewed as a whole, consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership (the “Nolan Principles”). The Council must also have in place arrangements under which allegations can be investigated and arrangements under which decisions on allegations can be made, and if the Council find that a member of the Council (or a Parish Councillor)

has failed to comply with its code of conduct, it may have regard to the failure in deciding whether to take action in relation to the member and what action to take.

(c) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for an EIA arising from this Report.

5. **Supporting Information**

Complainant & date received	Subject member	Allegation	Outcome	Lessons learnt/advice
Parish Councillors 24/11/20	Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Councillor	Bullying	No formal investigation as no provision in Parish code proscribing bullying 17/12/20	Parish advised to review its code against new LGA model and recommendations of Committee on Standards in Public Life, to include proscription of bullying. Also advised on use of e-mails & need for training on governance, staff appointment & data protection
Parish Councillor 25/01/21	Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Councillors	Inappropriate behaviour	No formal investigation as insufficient evidence of breach of code 22/02/21	Parish advised to remind all Councillors about Standing Orders & facilitate training on meeting governance & staff appointment
Parish Councillor 10/02/21	Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Councillors	Bullying and intimidation	No formal investigation as no provision in Parish code proscribing bullying 22/02/2021	Parish advised to facilitate training on the roles & responsibilities of councillors, chairs, and full council

6. **Background Papers**

None