

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

**DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 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 March 2021.

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

<b>Complainant &amp; date received</b>	<b>Subject member</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Resident 15 <sup>th</sup> March	SBC Councillor	Callous Statement at Council meeting	Words used do not amount to a breach of the Code
SBC Councillor 25 <sup>th</sup> March	SBC Councillor	Bullying & failure to intervene at Council meeting	Complaints do not amount to breaches of the Code
SBC Councillor 25 <sup>th</sup> March	SBC Councillor	Breach of 7 Principles of Public Life	Complaint not sufficiently detailed to support a proper investigation
Resident 5 <sup>th</sup> April	SBC Councillor	Inappropriate comments at Council meeting	Words used do not amount to a breach of the Code
Resident 5 <sup>th</sup> April	SBC Councillor	Inappropriate comments at Council meeting	Words used do not amount to a breach of the Code
3 Residents 6 <sup>th</sup> April	SBC Councillor	Offensive social media tweets which embarrass SBC & offend a Religious Group	Comments do not amount to a breach of the Code

SBC Councillor 6 <sup>th</sup> April	3 SBC Councillors	Swearing, attacking statement & personal comments at Council meeting	Councillor apologised in respect of swearing; Insufficient detail of attacking statement to warrant investigation; & Words used do not amount to a breach of the Code
Resident 6 <sup>th</sup> April	3 Colnbrook with Poyle Councillors	Being a willing cohort of others; Being misguided and readily intimidated; Failure to treat others with respect or comply with good governance	Not clear how breached Code Not clear how breached Code Complaint not sufficiently detailed to support a proper investigation
Resident 9 <sup>th</sup> June	SBC Councillor	Defamatory comments	Breach of the Code, written apology given to resident.

6. **Background Papers**  
None