

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
7th December 2018

**CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLIANCE BY TOWN AND
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider the report.

Reasons:

The subject matter of the report falls within the remit of the Committee.

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

Not applicable

Exec Board Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr E Dole (Leader)

Cllr M Stephens

Directorate

Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7th December 2018

CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLIANCE BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

As part of its role in monitoring Code compliance by Town and Community Councillors, the Committee receives reports detailing the levels of code training received, declarations of interest made, dispensation requests granted and Code complaints registered in respect of Town and Community Councils within the County.

A request for this information was submitted in April 2018 to all Town and Community Councils in the County.

The attached spreadsheet sets out the information provided and allows for comparison with previous years.

In addition to the usual questions councils were asked to confirm whether any of their councillors had not received any code training since April 2015. This information (where provided) is captured in the 'comments' column of the spreadsheet

As can be seen, there continue to be significant variations between councils as to the extent to which declarations of interest are made and/or dispensations sought, although there appears to be no correlation between these factors and the level of code of conduct training provided.

Similarly there appears to be no clear evidence of any correlation between the provision of code training and the number of code complaints nor is there is a consistent pattern of complaints against particular councils.

As in previous years a disappointingly high proportion of Councils have failed to respond to the request for information and there are a number of councils who have now failed to respond for several years.

Overall however the statistical evidence appears to suggest a generally good level of Code compliance by Town and Community Councillors across the County.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Linda Rees Jones

Head of Administration and Law

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable

2. Local Member(s)

Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council

Not applicable

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal file	DPSC-165	Legal Services, County Hall