

Rotherham Borough Council - Report to Members and Independent Members

1.	Meeting:	Standards Committee
2.	Date:	13th December 2012
3.	Title:	Update from the Monitoring Officer
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

To update the Committee with regard to referrals under the Code of Conduct; dispensations that have been granted; the ballot of the Town and the Parish Councils to select representatives to the Committee and the recruitment of the Independent Person.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee notes the report.

7. Proposals and Details

Update upon Referrals under the Code of Conduct

The Monitoring Officer is required by Council to report to the Committee upon cases where the informal resolution of complaints without investigation has been sought.

Currently there are five matters being considered at a preliminary stage, in consultation with the Independent Person. One matter has not been proceeded with under the Council's procedure as it did not involve the Councillor acting in a public capacity.

Dispensations

In accordance with the Localism Act, the Code of Conduct and the powers delegated to the Monitoring Officer, the following dispensation has been granted to all those Town and Parish Councils that have delegated their functions in relation to Standards matters to the Council:-

“to take part in the discussions, vote and remain in the meeting room when setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 or any other enactment.”

It is proposed to provide a similar dispensation to Borough Councillors.

Ballot of Parish Councils

The Yorkshire Local Councils Association is conducting the ballot of Parish Councils, with a view to three representatives being appointed to the Standards Committee. The ballot will be conducted throughout December.

Recruitment of Independent Person

The interviews for this position are to be held on the morning of the Committee meeting and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

8. Risks and Uncertainties

As contained in the report.

9. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

None

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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