



Report ABPC/24/006

To: Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.

Date: 13 May 2024

Status: Public Report

Subject: Code of Conduct

1. **SUMMARY:**

This report has been compiled as a result of a letter received from the Monitoring Officer at Ashford Borough Council on the subject of Code of Conduct Complaints.

2. **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION.**

The Parish Council has been asked by the Monitoring Officer for its views on possible measures to reduce the incidence and cost of complaints as well as seeking suggestions for training topics for a future programme.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/24/006.**
2. **To consider what training or alternative measures are required to reduce the number of Code of Conduct complaints.**

4. **INTRODUCTION:**

The Monitoring Officer submitted his Annual Report for 2023 to the Borough Council's Standards Committee on 30th January 2024 which has highlighted the volume of code of conduct complaints has markedly risen to unsustainable levels. This in turn results in increased costs to the Council in respect of considering complaints and the need to outsource complaints for further investigation, indicatively on average £4,000 per complaint ultimately financed by the Council Tax.

The Monitoring Officer's report is attached to this report as well as the minutes of the Standards Committee who have requested that Parish Councils be asked for information and assistance in achieving a significant reduction in the number of complaints as well as cost of investigation.

5. **CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS.**

If you have any queries about this report please contact the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council Tel.: 07928453208 or email: clerk@abpc.org.uk prior to the meeting.