

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
20 September 2017**

Question 1

Mr R Stow, Rowleston

Why is Ledbury Town Council not mentioned at all in the Annual Report of Code of Conduct complaints, when there is a large amount of information about long-running conduct issues at this Council in the public domain, with detailed coverage in local media (for instance in the Ledbury Reporter) and in other online sources?

Response

As already set out in the report this committees working groups for standards have previously discussed naming of councillors and parishes/town councils involved in complaints and deemed it appropriate for such details to only be published when a standards panel is convened.

Question 2

Mr R Palgrave, How Caple

The Blueschool House renovation project was part of a SCAPE framework agreement with Kier as lead contractor. The framework is promoted as helping to minimise delivery- and cost-risk and ensuring value for money. In reviewing the overspend on Blueschool, has the Council considered if the framework was appropriate for this project, and whether officers were sufficiently trained in its use? Does the Council have an ongoing SCAPE agreement with Kier?

Response

The SCAPE framework is designed to enable the delivery of building projects for public sector bodies. As the report from SWAP identifies a number of mistakes were made in the procurement and management of the project to refurbish Blueschool House. The Council is using the SCAPE framework agreement for the building of the new school at Colwall and is confident that relevant staff are able to use it appropriately. In addition the SCAPE framework has been used to carry out the initial feasibility work for Marlbrook School. However, the SCAPE framework is a single supplier framework so following the recently amended contract procedure rules we would not be able to use the SCAPE framework to award new contracts.