

## Appendix 9 - Members Code of Conduct

Note: strikethrough indicates text removed. Underline indicates new text.

Section	Arrangements for dealing with complaints about the Code of Conduct
<p><b>Proposed Changes</b></p>	<p>At Stage 1, add at 1f.</p> <p><u>In relation to complaints against Parish and Town Council Members raised by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>other Members; or</u></li> <li>b. <u>Members of the public/officers of a PTC</u></li> </ul> <p><u>that alleges a breach of conduct in relation to a lack of respect, of bullying or harassment or bringing the authority into disrepute only, then where a PTC has a local resolution protocol (LRP) then Herefordshire Council will <b>NOT</b> accept a complaint under the current arrangement, <b>UNLESS</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>the LRP has concluded; or</u></li> <li>ii. <u>The PTC or Monitoring Officer considers that the LRP process has finished (including where it has not achieved an outcome or is incomplete).</u></li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed Changes</b></p>	<p>At Stage 3, amend as follows:</p> <p>3 i. The MO will decide on one of the following three outcomes at Initial Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No further action should be taken on the allegation (e.g. there is no breach or no jurisdiction);</li> <li>2. The matter should be dealt with through a process of informal resolution in the first instance (e.g the member has agreed to apologise);</li> <li>3. <u>The matter indicates a technical breach of the code of conduct, but it is not in the public interest to refer it for a formal investigation; or</u></li> </ul> <p><del>4</del>.3. The matter should be referred for a formal investigation.</p> <p>Transparency Arrangements</p> <p>5a All decision notices where there is a finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct, either following a decision by the Monitoring Officer after formal investigation, or by a Standards Panel, will be published on the Council's website. Such notices will be retained until the later of 6 years. <u>For the avoidance of doubt, a breach determined at Initial</u></p>

	<u>Assessment stage 3 will not be published unless the Monitoring Officer determines under paragraph 5b.</u>
<b>Section</b>	<b>Arrangements for dealing with complaints about the Code of Conduct - Appendix 1</b> General Guidance
<b>Proposed Changes</b>	19 <u>The Council delegates to Audit &amp; Governance Committee authority to make changes to these arrangements.</u> The MO is authorised to change the 'Guidance' sections of these Arrangements in consultation with the Chairperson of the Council's Audit and Governance Committee where improvements and clarifications are required.