

Report to the Standards Committee

Report Reference: STD-002-2019/20

Date of meeting: 2 March 2020



**Epping Forest
District Council**

**Subject: Imposition of charges for dealing with Parish Council
Complaints of a Breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct**

Responsible Officer: Nathalie Boateng (01992 564323).

Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To impose charges to Parish Councils for dealing with investigations of an alleged breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct; and**
- (2) To delegate to the Monitoring Officer, in liaison with the Chairman of the Standards Committee, to establish and implement a charging policy and mechanism to Parish Councils for investigations of Code of Conduct Complaints**

Report:

1. The Current Monitoring Officer (MO) has been in post for just over one year. During that time a large proportion of the MO's time has been spent dealing with Code of Conduct complaints, the vast majority are from Parish Councils. Many complaints are from the same Parish Councils.

2. A great deal of time and resources are spent investigating these complaints. In order to recover the costs of undertaking the investigations, it is suggested that a charging mechanism be introduced to charge Parish Council for utilising this resource.