

MONITORING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Standards Committee - 2 February 2021

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by: Council - 23 February 2021

Key Decision: No

This reports support the Key Aim of: The effective management of Council resources

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Recommendation to Standards Committee: That the Monitoring Officer's report be noted.

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Reason for recommendation: This report sets out the work of the Monitoring Officer and Standards Committee. It also reports upon the governance arrangements monitored by other committees and as such provides information on the ethical standards set by the Council. It is intended to promote Member and public confidence in the Council's governance framework and standards regime.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The sixteenth Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer is attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 2 The purpose of the Monitoring Officer's Report is to provide an annual overview of the work of the Monitoring Officer, the work of the Standards Committee and the general governance arrangements of the Council.
- 3 Reporting provides an opportunity to review and learn from experience. The Report also gives Members of the Standards Committee background information to facilitate the carrying out of their functions.
- 4 The Monitoring Officer's Report sets out the Monitoring Officer's statutory responsibilities and summarises how these duties have been discharged during 2020 in accordance with legislation and the Council's Constitution. Where necessary the Report can draw attention to those issues requiring attention in the coming year. Members' attention is drawn to the letter

from the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the draft Model Code of Conduct.

Key Implications

Financial

The Monitoring Officer's Report has not identified any financial implications for this Council over and above normal requirements.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

The Monitoring Officer's Report has not uncovered any illegality.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

The Monitoring Officer's report sets out the elements of good governance and demonstrates that robust procedures are in place to raise ethical standards, identify problems and ensure that Members, Officers and the Public are aware of appropriate channels to raise concerns.

Appendices

Monitoring Officer's Report - Appendix A

Letter from Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman - Appendix B

Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (2019) - Appendix C

Letter from Committee on Standards in Public Life (2020) - Appendix D

Model Code of Conduct with appendices - Appendix E

Background Papers

None.

Martin Goodman
Monitoring Officer