

OPEN

## **Audit and Governance Committee**

**28 September 2023**

### **Monitoring Officer Annual Report 2022/23**

---

**Report of: David Brown Director of Governance and Compliance  
and Monitoring Officer**

**Report Reference No: AG/14/23-24**

**Ward(s) Affected: All**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 This report seeks to provide information and assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee on key aspects of the Monitoring Officer's responsibilities over the previous financial year.

#### **Executive Summary**

- 2 The Committee is invited to review the Monitoring Officer's Annual Report for the financial year 2022 to 2023 attached at Appendix A.
- 3 The structure and content of this report is based upon the Committee's preferences as expressed previously, although future reports can be further developed as the current Committee see fit.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:

1. Acknowledge and consider the Monitoring Officer Annual Report 2022/23

## **Background**

- 4 A number of local authorities provide an Annual Monitoring Officer Report to their Audit and Governance Committee or equivalent. This report intends to provide assurances to the Committee on a number of the Monitoring Officer's statutory responsibilities over the previous financial year.
- 5 The report (Appendix A) provides information on the role of the Monitoring Officer, and an overview of the following areas:
  - Members' Code of Conduct
  - Register of Members' Interests
  - Register of Gifts and Hospitality
  - Member Training and Development
  - Dispensations
  - Information and Data Protection
  - Complaints including Local Government and Social Care Ombudsmen Referrals
  - Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) Act
  - Whistleblowing
  - Constitution/Decision Making Process

## **Consultation and Engagement**

- 6 Not applicable.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 7 The Audit and Governance Committee has a key role in overseeing the Council's risk management, control and corporate governance arrangements. It advises the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements. The assurances within the Annual

Monitoring Officer report are intended to inform the Committee's judgement on the arrangements that are in place to ensure the Council is a responsive, effective and efficient organisation.

## Other Options Considered

Option	Impact	Risk
<b>Do nothing</b>	There is no legal obligation to produce an Annual MO Report	It is good practice to report annually, and the information contained therein offers the Committee insight and assurance on a variety of important matters.

## Implications and Comments

### *Monitoring Officer/Legal*

- 8 The Monitoring Officer has a range of specific responsibilities which are described in detail in the annual report. The annual report provides assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee that these responsibilities have been carried out effectively over the last financial year.

### *Section 151 Officer/Finance*

- 9 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### *Policy*

- 10 There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.

### *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*

- 11 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

### *Human Resources*

12 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

*Risk Management*

13 There are no direct Human Resources Implications arising from this report.

*Rural Communities*

14 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

*Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)*

15 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

*Public Health*

16 There are no direct implications for public health.

*Climate Change*

17 There are no direct implications for Climate Change

<b>Access to Information</b>	
Contact Officer:	Janet Witkowski Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer  Janet.witkowski@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A: Monitoring Officer Annual Report 2022/23
Background Papers:	N/a

---

**Approvals trail: to be removed before Committee**

---

Name	Title	Comments	Date
Contributors:			
Approvers:			