

Audit and Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 September 2021

Report Title: Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer (2020/21)

Senior Officer: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks to provide assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee on key aspects of the Monitoring Officer's responsibilities over the previous financial year.
- 1.2. The structure and content of this report is based upon the Committees' preferences as expressed previously, although future reports can be further developed as the current Committee see fit.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Committee -
 - a) Note the Annual Monitoring Officer's Report 2020/21; and
 - b) Consider whether any further development of the report content or presentation is desirable for future reports.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. 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.

4. Background

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. The report (Appendix A) provides background 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

5. Implications of the Recommendations

5.1. Legal Implications

- 5.1.1. 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.

5.2. Finance Implications

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

5.3. Policy Implications

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

5.4. Human Resources Implications

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

5.5. Risk Management Implications

5.5.1. The Monitoring Officer report provides assurance that the Council has arrangements in place to ensure effective service delivery and manage the risks of non-compliance.

5.6. Rural Communities Implications

5.6.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

5.7. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

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

5.8. Public Health Implications

5.8.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

5.9. Climate Change Implications

5.9.1. There are no direct implications for Climate Change

6. Ward Members Affected

6.1. Not applicable

7. Contact Information

7.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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