

Audit and Governance Committee

Date of Meeting:	28 July 2022
Report Title:	Monitoring Officer Annual Report 2021/22
Report of:	David Brown Monitoring Officer & Director of Governance and Compliance
Report Reference No:	AG/41/21- 22
Ward(s) Affected:	ALL

1. Purpose of Report

- 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.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Committee is invited to review the Monitoring Officer's Annual Report attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2. 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.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the Committee -
 - a) Note the Annual Monitoring Officer's Report 2021/22.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. 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.

5. Background

5.1. 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.

5.2. 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

6. Other Options Considered

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	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.

7. Consultation and Engagement

7.1. Not applicable

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

8.1.1. 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.

8.2. Finance

8.2.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8.3. Policy

8.3.1. There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.

8.4. Equality

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

8.5. Human Resources

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

8.6. Risk Management

8.6.1. 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.

8.7. Rural Communities

8.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

8.8. Children & Young People/Cared for Children

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

8.9. Public Health

8.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

8.10. Climate Change

8.10.1 There are no direct implications for Climate Change

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Appendix A: Monitoring Officer Annual Report 2021/22
Background Papers:	