

## **MONITORING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Standards Committee – 16 January 2014**

Report of	Monitoring Officer
Status:	For consideration and decision
Also considered by:	Council – 18 February 2014
Key Decision:	No

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**This report supports the Key Aim of** effective management of Council resources.

**Contact Officer(s)** Mrs Christine Nuttall – Chief Officer Legal and Governance

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**Recommendation to the Standards Committee:** That the Monitoring Officer's Annual Report be noted.

**Recommendation to Full Council:** That the Monitoring Officer's Annual Report be noted.

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**Reason for recommendation:** This report sets out the work of the Monitoring Officer, Standards Committee and other governance arrangements monitored by other committees within the Council thus providing Members and the public with valuable information which should promote Member and Public confidence in the high ethical standards set by the Council.

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### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 This is the ninth Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer as attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2 The purpose of the Monitoring Officer's Report is to provide an overview of the work of the Monitoring Officer, the work of the Standards Committee and the general governance arrangements within the Council in the past year and to provide an opportunity to review and learn from experience.
- 3 The information contained within this Report will also provide Members of the Standards Committee, with an overview of the workings of the Council thus providing them with valuable information to facilitate the carryout of their functions.

### **Substance of Report**

- 4 The Monitoring Officer's Report sets out the Monitoring Officer's statutory responsibilities, summarises how these duties have been discharged during 2013

in accordance with the Council's Constitution, legislative requirements and draws attention to those issues that will require attention in the next calendar year.

**Key Implications**

Financial

5 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.

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

Equality Impacts

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	N/A
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	The report provides insight into the high ethical standards applied across all levels of the authority.
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

**Conclusions**

7 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**

Appendix – Monitoring Officer's Report

**Background Papers:**

Information supplied by various officers and sections of the Council

**Mrs Christine Nuttall**  
**Chief Officer for Legal and Governance**