

Item 5(a) – Monitoring Officer’s Report

Performance and Governance Committee’s Recommendation to Council (from the DRAFT minutes)

At its meeting on 15 February 2011 the Performance and Governance Committee considered the matter as follows:

The Monitoring Officer’s Annual Report had been considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting in January 2011. The Monitoring Officer advised that the number of complaints of misconduct against Members had risen over the last year. However, nine of the complaints were from one Parish Council which had undergone conciliation to address issues.

The Monitoring Officer explained that as part of the Localism Bill there would be no compulsory Code of Conduct and that failure to disclose an interest would be considered a criminal offence.

The Chief Executive clarified that the arrangements for standards committees provided in the Bill had changed during the last week. Once the arrangements were made clear, the Council would ask the Standards Committee to monitor the situation and provide the Council with suggestions for how to proceed in future.

In response to a suggestion, the Monitoring Officer advised that local authorities would not be able to choose to return to a committee system until after the local elections in 2015.

Resolved: a) That the Monitoring Officer’s Annual Report be noted by the Committee; and

b) full Council be recommended to note the Monitoring Officer’s Annual Report.