

## Item 5(a) – Monitoring Officer’s Report

### Standards Committee’s Recommendation to Council

At its meeting on 11 January 2011 the Standards Committee considered the matter as follows:

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that this was the sixth Monitoring Officer’s Annual Report. She hoped it would not be the last, but was uncertain due to the proposed abolition of the current Standards Regime.

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. The Vice-Chairman and the Monitoring Officer had undertaken conciliation at the Parish Council concerned and were pleased to announce that it had been successful and relations had improved, despite initial concerns.

The Monitoring Officer also highlighted that recommended conciliation in relation to a Swanley Town Council matter had been put on hold until a police investigation had been carried out. The Town Clerk had suggested that conciliation be postponed until after the May 2011 elections.

It was clarified that the Monitoring Officer’s Annual Report would also be considered by the Performance and Governance Committee before it was presented to full Council in February 2011.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Monitoring Officer for her work on the Report.

Resolved:

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

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

*This matter was also considered by the Performance and Governance Committee on 15 February 2011 and the minute from that meeting will be available at the Council meeting.*

