

MONITORING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Council - 25 February 2020

Report of	Monitoring Officer
Status	For consideration
Also considered by	Standards Committee - 14 January 2020
Key Decision	No

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

Contact Officer Martin Goodman, Ext. 7245

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.

Reason for recommendation: This report sets out the work of the Monitoring Officer and Standards Committee. It also reports upon the governance arrangements monitored by other committees and as such provides information on the ethical standards set by the Council. It is intended to promote Member and public confidence in the Council's governance framework and standards regime.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The fifteenth Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer is attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 2 The purpose of the Monitoring Officer's Report is to provide an annual overview of the work of the Monitoring Officer, the work of the Standards Committee and the general governance arrangements of the Council.
- 3 Reporting provides an opportunity to review and learn from experience. The Report also gives Members of the Standards Committee background information to facilitate the carrying out of their functions.
- 4 The Monitoring Officer's Report sets out the Monitoring Officer's statutory responsibilities and summarises how these duties have been discharged during 2019 in accordance with legislation and the Council's Constitution. Where necessary the Report can draw attention to those issues requiring attention in the coming year.

Key Implications

Financial

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.

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

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

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 A - Monitoring Officer's Report

Appendix B - Letter from Local Government and Social Care

Ombudsman [ON WEBSITE ONLY](#)

<https://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/s40506/04%20Appendix%20B%20LGO%20Annual%20Review%20Letter.pdf?J=3>

Appendix C - Local Government Ethical Standards Review by the

Committee on Standards in Public Life [ON WEBSITE ONLY](#)

<https://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/s40507/04%20Appendix%20C%20Local%20Government%20Ethical%20Standards>

[%20Review%20by%20the%20Committee%20on%20Standards%20in%20Public%20Life.pdf?J=3](https://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/s40507/04%20Appendix%20C%20Local%20Government%20Ethical%20Standards%20Review%20by%20the%20Committee%20on%20Standards%20in%20Public%20Life.pdf?J=3)

Background None
Papers

Martin Goodman
Monitoring Officer