

## ***Report to the Standards Committee***

***Date of meeting:*** 2 October 2012

**Report of:** Monitoring Officer

**Subject:** New Standards Arrangements - Delegation

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### **Recommendations:**

**(1) To note the arrangements agreed by the Monitoring Officer in respect her delegated powers under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 in respect the District Council and the affiliated Parish Councils:**

**(a) Deputy Monitoring Officer – authorised to act in the absence of the Monitoring Officer on all standards matters and as Code of Conduct complaint investigator when so appointed by the Monitoring Officer including liaison with Independent Person(s);**

**(b) Assistant Director (Democratic Services) – authorised to act on behalf of the Monitoring Officer in respect of all appeal hearings concerning Code of Conduct complaints and related matters including liaison with Independent Person(s); and**

**(c) Senior Committee Secretary – authorised to administer the process of initial complaint handling including liaison with Independent Person(s) and making recommendations to the Monitoring Officer on decisions as to whether complaints should (or should not) be investigated, referred for other action not involving a formal investigation and any complaints requiring reference to other legal processes;**

**(2) That a report be submitted to the Council that the Monitoring Officer's existing delegated authority under the Localism Act 2011 be extended to cover action in respect of any Parish Council affiliated from time to time to this Committee;**

**(3) That a further report be submitted on any delegated powers to be granted by the Council to the Joint Parish Council Standards Committee following further discussions with Parish and Town Council representatives.**

(Deputy Monitoring Officer) At the Council meeting on 18 June 2012, the Monitoring Officer (and in her absence the Deputy Monitoring Officer) was appointed Proper Officer was appointed Proper Officer for the purposes of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011. Since then a number of other delegation issues have become apparent.

## **Officer Delegation**

Recommendation (1) sets out internal delegation for carrying out of key tasks under Chapter 7. These reflect the delegations which operated under the previous standards arrangements and are for noting.

### **Delegation to the Monitoring Officer in Respect of Parish Councils affiliated to this Committee**

Recommendation (2) proposes adoption by the Council of an extension to the Monitoring Officer's delegated authority to cover those Parish Councils affiliated to this Committee. Although the Monitoring Officer's powers already cover all Parish Councils, it is desirable that they be recorded formally in respect of those Parish Councils for the avoidance of doubt in the future and the possibility of challenge. The delegation is drafted in general terms to reflect the number of affiliating Parishes might change in the future.

### **Delegation in Respect of the Joint Parish Standards Committee**

Recommendation (3) refers to a change in the delegation to the Joint Parish Standards Committee. Further discussions will be held between the Monitoring officer and parish council representatives on operational arrangements which will apply and a further report will be submitted to the next meeting.