

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 17 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

MOTION OF CENSURE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: NONE

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- *Standards Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 28 January 2016, considered a report by the Investigating Officer which concluded that Councillor J Cartwright had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct in relation to the matters identified. The Standards Sub-Committee decided that the Member had failed to comply with the Code and decided that formal censure by motion was appropriate.*

**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>that Councillor James Cartwright be censured for his conduct in respect of the matter detailed by the Investigating Officer in his report to the Standards Sub-Committee meeting of 28 January 2016.</b>
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1.0 Background

1.1 The report to the Standards Sub-Committee including the Investigating Officer's report is contained in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Council has agreed a procedure for considering complaints (**Essential Reference Paper 'B'**)

### 3.0 Investigating Officer's Report

3.1 An investigating officer was appointed to carry out an investigation. Following the investigation, the Investigating Officer concluded that, in all the circumstances of this case, there has been a failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.2 The Investigating Officer concluded that Councillor Cartwright's conduct failed to comply with the Code in that the comment he made on twitter on 29 October 2015 failed to treat those involved with respect.

3.3 The Sub-Committee considered the following actions:

- A formal letter to the Councillor found to have breached the code;
- Formal censure by motion;
- Removal by the authority of the Member from Committee(s) subject to statutory and constitutional requirements;
- Press release or other appropriate publicity;
- Request an apology by the Member

3.4 The Sub-Committee resolved as follows:

- Council be invited to pass a formal motion of censure against Councillor J Cartwright, and
- Councillor Cartwright be required to attend social media training provided by the Authority within one month of the date of the Standards Sub-Committee meeting (i.e. by 28 February 2016) and that should you fail to do so the Council's Conservative Political Group, of which you are a member, be requested to remove you from any seats you have been appointed to on committees in accordance with the wishes of that political group until such time as the required training had been satisfactorily concluded.

### 4.0 Implications/Consultations

4.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

### Background Papers

None

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