

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### STANDARDS SUB COMMITTEE – 13 DECEMBER 2016

#### REPORT BY ACTING HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

#### INVESTIGATION UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT ON A COMPLAINT AGAINST FORMER COUNCILLOR J CARTWRIGHT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To consider the independent investigator's report on a complaint to the Council's Monitoring Officer regarding an alleged breach of the Code of the Conduct by former Councillor J Cartwright.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS TO STANDARDS SUB COMMITTEE: that</u></b>	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>the report of the investigating officer be received; and</b>
<b>(B)</b>	

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following the submission of a complaint regarding the behaviour of former Councillor, an independent investigator was employed to review allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The investigator's report is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

#### 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Sub-Committee will recall that in April 2016, it had agreed that former Councillor Cartwright should be investigated for a potential breach of the Code of Conduct, following three separate complaints submitted by David Bromage, Scot Ramsey and Adrian McNeece. The then Monitoring Officer, Catherine Whitehead, appointed ch&i associates to carry out an

independent investigation.

2.2 The investigator's report is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. This concludes that former Councillor Cartwright did breach the Members' Code of Conduct when he:

- *made false, disrespectful assertions about Mr Bromage and Mr Ramsey during the investigation into the earlier complaint about his conduct;*
- *sent Mr McNeece offensive text messages; and*
- *continued to make derogatory comments about identifiable individuals on Twitter, both during the investigation and immediately after the Standards Committee considered the matter.*

2.3 The Monitoring Officer has consulted the Independent Person and is satisfied that the investigator's report should be referred to the Sub-Committee to make a formal determination.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 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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