

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 1 MARCH 2017

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 13 December 2016, considered a report by the Investigating Officer which concluded that former 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 that formal censure by motion was appropriate.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>that former 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 13 December 2016.</b>
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1.0 Background

1.1 The Standards Sub-Committee considered the Investigating Officer's report into three separate complaints submitted against former Councillor J Cartwright. The report can be viewed on the Council's website at:  
<http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=440&MId=3092&Ver=4>

2.0 Report

2.1 The complaints were considered in accordance with the agreed complaints procedure.

2.2 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 had been a failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct. Former Councillor Cartwright had:

- *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 Sub-Committee considered the matter.*

2.3 The Sub-Committee considered the advice of the Independent Person and agreed that there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct. Given that Mr Cartwright had resigned as a councillor before the Sub-Committee's determination, the Sub-Committee recognised that the only sanction available was a motion of censure. Although this would likely have little impact on Mr Cartwright personally, it was considered correct for the public at large to know.

2.4 Council is invited to agree the motion of censure now detailed.

### 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

Standards Sub-Committee Agenda and Minutes – 13 December 2016:  
<http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=440&MId=3092&Ver=4>

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