

LATE BUSINESS SHEET

Report Title: Agenda Item 14 – Standards Complaint SC005/1920

Committee: Standards Committee

Date: 25 January 2021

Reason for lateness and reason for consideration

On 21 May 2020, the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer into Standards Complaint SC005/1920. At the meeting, the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee resolved that the complaint merited further investigation and requested the Monitoring Officer to undertake such investigation.

On 1 June 2020, the then Monitoring Officer made enquires of a specialist independent firm called ch&i associates into its availability to conduct an investigation. On 24 June 2020, ch&i associates were instructed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on behalf of the then Monitoring Officer to conduct an investigation. On 18 December 2020, ch&i associates sent its final report to the Deputy Monitoring Officer. Having received the report, the Deputy Monitoring Officer consulted with the then Monitoring Officer, and the now interim Monitoring Officer, both of whom agreed that the investigation had been conducted properly.

The Standards Committee is required to consider the complaint in light of the findings of the independent investigator's report and to reach a determination on the next steps under the terms of the Council's arrangements for dealing with complaints about Member conduct.

Under s100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances. These circumstances are so that the member complaint can be considered by the Standards Committee in a timely manner at the meeting on 25 January 2021. This was agreed by the Chair on 20 January 2021.