

Report to: Governance Committee

Date of meeting: 23 January 2018

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: Amendments to the Council's quarterly monitoring and Terms of Reference of the Governance Committee – Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman reports

Purpose: To consider amendments to the Council's quarterly monitoring and the Terms of Reference of the Governance Committee relating to reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

RECOMMENDATION

The Governance Committee is recommended:

- 1. to note the proposed changes to the Council's quarterly monitoring; and**
 - 2. to recommend the County Council to amend the terms of reference of the Governance Committee as set out in this report.**
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1. Background

1.1 At the Governance Committee when the annual complaints report was considered it was requested that information regarding complaints considered by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) could be reported to members more regularly. It is therefore proposed that a summary of LGO findings will be reported through quarterly monitoring.

1.2 Currently the terms of reference of the Governance Committee include the exercise of the powers and duties of the Council in respect of the making payments or the provision of other benefits in cases of maladministration. It is proposed that the terms of reference of the Committee be expanded as set out below to enable the Committee to consider reports issued by the LGO where there is a finding of maladministration. The Council has not received such a report in several years, but as we reduce services we may receive such reports, and should the situation arise will want to be able to make decisions in a timely fashion:

To consider reports from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman where there has been a finding of maladministration against the County Council.

2. Conclusion and recommendation

2.1 It is therefore proposed that the Council's quarterly monitoring include LGO findings and that the Governance Committee recommends to Council that the Committee's terms of reference be amended as set out in the report.

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