

## **Summary Sheet**

### **Standards and Ethics Committee Report**

Standards and Ethics Committee - 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

#### **Title**

Resolution of Full Council Following the Conviction of a Councillor

#### **Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

#### **Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

N/A

#### **Report Author(s)**

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#### **Ward(s) Affected**

All

#### **Executive Summary**

The report sets out the action taken following the recent conviction of former  
Councillor A Roddison.

#### **Recommendations**

- (i) That the Committee notes the content of the letter sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

#### **List of Appendices Included**

- (i) Letter sent to Department of Communities and Local Government dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

**Background Papers**

N/A

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Council

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Title

### Resolution of Full Council Following the Conviction of a Councillor

#### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the content of the letter sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The circumstances relating to former Councillor Roddison's conviction are set out in the letter to the Department of Communities and Local Government dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 A Resolution was passed at the Full Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, as follows:-

##### ***Resolved:-***

*This Council notes that:-*

*Councillor Roddison, by his conduct in:-*

- *Breaking the law by committing a sexual assault;*
- *Continuing to take public money without making any attempt to participate in his council duties; and;*
- *By his grubby action in sneaking in the side entrance to the last council meeting in order to comply with council rules on attendance to enable him to continue to take public money.*

*has brought this council into disrepute in the eyes of the public.*

*Council further notes the current legal limitations with regards to enforcement of councils' standards regimes, meaning that Councillors cannot be expelled from office unless they have been convicted of a criminal offence and been sentenced to a term of imprisonment [whether suspended or not] of three months or longer without the option of a fine.*

*This Council therefore resolves that Councillor Roddison be censured for his conduct and requests that the Chief Executive raise the concerns of this Council about the limitations of the current national Standards regime with the Government, as illustrated by this case.*

- 2.3 As such, the Chief Executive wrote to the Department of Communities and Local Government on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. The letter from the Chief Executive to the Department of Communities and Local Government is attached at Appendix 1. Any response received from the Department of Communities and Local Government will be reported back to the Standards and Ethics Committee.

**3. Key Issues**

3.1 The relevant issues are set out above.

**4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

4.1 As stated above it is recommended that the Committee note the action taken.

**5. Consultation**

5.1 N/A

**6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

6.1 N/A

**7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

7.1 N/A

**8. Legal Implications**

8.1 The Council has a duty to ensure that the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011 are applied in relation to the conduct of Members.

**9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 None.

**10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

10.1 None.

**11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 N/A

**12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

12.1 None.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 There is a risk of public confidence being eroded if appropriate sanctions are not available in relation to the conduct of Members.

**14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director, Legal Services