

BRIEFING PAPER FOR BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

TITLE	Author	ITEM NO	Date
Clear Up Project Recommendations – Progress Update	Paul Greeno, Senior Corporate and Governance Lawyer ext. 3934		19th March 2018

1. INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is providing the Board with an update on progress on the recommendations for further action arising out of the Clear Up Report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Board is asked to note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 17th December 2017, the Board received an update report advising that:

- Recommendations for action had been made in respect of a total of 41 of the 66 allegations that had been reported to the Clear Up Team.
- 16 of those 41 had been fully actioned.
- 17 recommendations associated with the remaining 25 cases had also been completed.

- 3.2 Substantial progress has since been made.

- A further 14 cases have been fully actioned leaving 11 outstanding cases.
- 23 of 37 outstanding recommendations in respect of those 11 outstanding cases have been completed leaving 14 outstanding recommendations.

- In respect of 5 of the outstanding cases and 8 of the outstanding recommendations, these all relate to HR and have been deferred until after the election.

3.3 A spreadsheet showing these outstanding actions is attached at Appendix 1. These have been clustered to reflect that the same recommendation may apply to more than 1 case.

4 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 There are no direct financial implications.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 The Monitoring Officer has been monitoring actions taken and where an action has been completed the Monitoring Officer has ensured that all appropriate lawful steps were taken to comply with the recommendations.

5.2 The Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This is referred to as the Council's best value duty.

5.3 By virtue of Directions that were made by the Secretary of State on 17th March 2015 the Council was required to draw up and agree with the Commissioners a strategy and action plan for securing the Authority's compliance with the best value duty. Part of that plan included a recommendation that the Council set up a Clear-Up Team to ensure that any historic unconsidered allegations of improper Council decision making or impropriety in the discharge of Council functions are properly investigated and determined. A natural consequence of the investigation and determination is to consider the findings and implement recommendations so as to continue to demonstrate the Council continued commitment to the best value duty.

5.4 Pursuant to the Direction of 28th March 2017 progress upon this matter will be included in the quarterly reports to the Secretary of State upon the Best Value Action Plan and Best Value Improvement Plan.