



## Standards Committee

**Date:** Wednesday, 29 June 2022

**Time:** 14:00

**Venue:** Flensburg Room

**Present:** Councillor Pamela Birks, Councillor Mrs Marilyn Bowman, Councillor Dr Helen Davison, Councillor Colin Glover, Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mallinson, Councillor Paul Nedved  
Councillor James Bainbridge (for Councillor David Morton)

**Also Present:** Independent Person  
Elected Member  
Elected Member's Representative  
Witnesses

**Officers:** Monitoring Officer  
Investigating Officer

### **ST.01/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Morton.

### **ST.02/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

For the record, Councillors Nedved, Bainbridge, Dr Davison and the Monitoring Officer indicated that they had been present at the Development Control Committee meeting held on 22 October 2022.

### **ST.03/22 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Monitoring Officer advised that in respect of agenda item B.1 - Allegation that an Elected Member has breached the Council's Code of Conduct, the Member subject of the allegation had indicated a willingness for the matter to be heard in public.

The Committee discussed the matter giving consideration to factors such as transparency and protection of third party data. The Chair put the matter to the vote and it was:

**RESOLVED** - That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph Number 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the 1972 Local Government Act.

### **ST.04/22 ALLEGATION THAT AN ELECTED MEMBER HAS BREACHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

(Public and Press Paragraph 1)

Also Present – Elected Member  
Elected Member's Representative

The Monitoring Officer presented report GD.38/22 regarding an allegation that an Elected Member had breached the Members' Code of Conduct.

The Investigating Officer presented her findings and responded to questions from the Elected Member's Representative and the Committee.

The Elected Member's Representative addressed the Committee on behalf of the Elected Member.

A number of witnesses were invited to attend the meeting, they responded to questions from the Committee and the Elected Member's Representative.

The Investigating Officer and the Elected Member's Representative each summed up.

The Investigating Officer, Elected Member, Elected Member's Representative and witnesses withdrew from the meeting whilst the Committee gave detailed consideration to the matter. The respective parties returned, and it was:

RESOLVED – 1) That the Standards Committee had considered the evidence set out in report GD.38/22 and listened to the submission made by the Elected Member's Representative.

2) The Standards Committee agreed that the Elected Member had breached the Members' Code of Conduct by failing to treat other Councillors and members of the public with respect.

3) That the Corporate Director of Economic Development review the Rights to Speak Policy

The Chair noted the sanctions available to the Committee in the event of an upheld complaint. She invited the Elected Member's Representative and the Investigating Officer to indicate which they deemed applicable; both parties put forward their views and left the meeting.

The Standards Committee considered the sanctions available to it and agreed the following sanctions for the Elected Member:

- That the Committee's findings in respect of the Member's conduct be published on the Council's website;
- That a formal letter be sent to the Elected Member;
- That the Standards Committee report its findings to Council for information.

All parties returned to the meeting and the Chair set out the sanctions the Committee had determined to apply. All parties left the meeting.

## **ST.05/22 ALLEGATION THAT AN ELECTED MEMBER HAS BREACHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Monitoring Officer submitted report GD.37/22 asking the Standards Committee to review a complaint which had been submitted about an Elected Member. The Standards Committee were asked to decide whether the complaint was to be progressed to formal investigation.

The Standards Committee considered the complaint and discussed the matter in depth.

The Monitoring Officer and Independent Person responded to questions from the Committee.

RESOLVED - That the complaint not be progressed to formal investigation.

#### **ST.06/22      STANDING ORDERS**

During consideration of the above item, it was noted that the meeting duration was approaching 3 hours. A Member moved that Council Procedure Rule 9 be suspended, the proposal was seconded.

RESOLVED - That Council Procedural Rule 9, in relation to the duration of meetings be suspended in order that the meeting could continue over the 3 hour time limit.

The Meeting ended at: 18:12