



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 16th December, 2021

STANDARDS AND ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE – REFERRALS PANEL

19th October 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillors Dawkins, Green and K. Swinburn,

Officers in attendance:

- Eve Richardson-Smith (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Laura Cowie (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Rachel Marshall (Executive Member Support Officer)

Also in attendance:

- Wayne Harvie (Independent Person)

SREF.13 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor K. Swinburn be appointed Chair for this meeting of the referrals panel.

COUNCILLOR K. SWINBURN IN THE CHAIR

SREF.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

SREF.15 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose exempt information within paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

SREF.16 COMPLAINT MO/08/2021

The panel considered the above complaint in accordance with the local standards arrangements arising from the Localism Act 2011 and as adopted by this Council on the 29th June 2012.

The panel were given the opportunity to ask the Deputy Monitoring Officer any questions regarding the complaint and the Independent Person's views.

It was noted by the panel that both the complainant and the complaine, along with a small number of other elected members, had not refreshed their Members Code of Conduct training within the required 4 years despite numerous course dates being made available. The panel felt that these members should be strongly advised and encouraged to complete the training when the next session was arranged in order to help reduce the number of complaints coming through.

The panel concurred with the view of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Independent Person, agreeing that there was insufficient evidence to suggest a breach of the Code of Conduct and therefore, taking into account the stage 2 criteria, it would not be in the public interest to investigate and/or take any further action.

The panel agreed that minor differences and matters should be dealt with between the parties in the first instance, including Group Whips if necessary, leaving the standards process for matters of substance.

RESOLVED –

1. That no further action be taken in respect of complaint MO/08/2021 as the panel determined that it did not satisfy the stage two criteria.
2. That those elected members whose Members Code of Conduct training had expired be advised and encouraged by the panel to complete the training at the next available session.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.36 a.m.