

Standards Sub-Committee

22 March 2016

Present: Councillor C Johnson (Chair)
Councillors P Earley, M Green and E Hodson

Also Present: Mr P Keith-Lucas, Bevan Brittan LLP, Investigating Officer
Mr G Clark, Independent Person
Mrs S Gardner, Independent Person

SSC17/03/16 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors P Mason and J O'Shea.

SSC18/03/16 Appointment of Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's Constitution, the appointment of the following substitute members was reported:

Councillor E Hodson for Councillor P Mason.
Councillor M Green for Councillor J O'Shea.

SSC19/03/16 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were declarations of interest reported.

There were no dispensations in relation to registerable personal interests reported.

SSC20/03/16 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Preliminary Issues

Councillor E Hodson advised the Sub-Committee in relation to Complaint NT02/2015 (Minute SSC23/03/16) that he had previously expressed a view in an email to the Complainant in relation to what was the subject of the complaint. This email indicated that Councillor Hodson may have pre-determined the complaint and therefore he decided not to participate in the consideration of this item of business.

SSC21/03/16 Code of Conduct for Members – Complaint NT16/2014

The Standards Sub-Committee received a report which presented the Investigating Officer's completed investigation into Complaint NT16/2014.

The Authority's Local Arrangements for the consideration of complaints made against Members under the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members at Appendix 1 to the report, required that a completed investigation report be received by the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee to determine the action to be taken with respect to the Complaint.

The final report of the Investigating Officer into Complaint NT16/2014 was attached at Appendix 2 to the report. The Investigating Officer had found in his report that no breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred in relation to this Complaint. In considering the report, the Standards Sub-Committee was required to consult with the Authority's Independent Persons who were present at the meeting.

The Sub-Committee examined the Investigating Officer's report and his conclusion that the Member concerned had not breached the Code of Conduct. Members accepted the findings of the Investigating Officer and complemented him for the thoroughness of his investigation.

Resolved that (1) the findings of the Investigating Officer that no breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred in Complaint NT16/2014 be accepted; and (2) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to write to the Subject Member and to the Complainant to notify them both that the Sub-Committee was satisfied no further action was required and provide both with a copy of the Investigating Officer's final report.

SSC22/03/16 Code of Conduct for Members – Complaint NT18/2014

The Standards Sub-Committee received a report which presented the Investigating Officer's completed investigation into Complaint NT18/2014.

The Authority's Local Arrangements for the consideration of complaints made against Members under the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members attached at Appendix 1 to the report, required that a completed investigation report be received by the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee to determine the action to be taken with respect to the Complaint.

The final report of the Investigating Officer into Complaint NT18/2014 was attached at Appendix 2 to the report. The Investigating Officer had found in his report that no breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred in relation to this Complaint. In considering the report, the Standards Sub-Committee was required to consult with the Authority's Independent Persons who were present at the meeting.

The Sub-Committee examined the Investigating Officer's report and his conclusion that the Member concerned had not breached the Code of Conduct. Members

accepted the findings of the Investigating Officer and complemented him for the thoroughness of his investigation.

Resolved that (1) the findings of the Investigating Officer that no breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred in Complaint NT18/2014 be accepted; and (2) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to write to the Subject Member and to the Complainant to notify them both that the Sub-Committee was satisfied no further action was required and provide them with a copy of the Investigating Officer's final report.

[As detailed above Councillor Hodson, in relation to Complaint NT02/2015, left the meeting at this point and took no part in the consideration of the following item of business]

SSC23/03/16 Code of Conduct for Members – Complaint NT02/2015

The Standards Sub-Committee received a report which presented the Investigating Officer's completed investigation into Complaint NT02/2015.

The Authority's Local Arrangements for the consideration of complaints made against Members under the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members attached at Appendix 1 to the report, required that a completed investigation report be received by the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee to determine the action to be taken with respect to the Complaint.

The final report of the Investigating Officer into Complaint NT02/2015 was attached at Appendix 2 to the report. The Investigating Officer had found in his report that no breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred in relation to this Complaint. In considering the report, the Standards Sub-Committee was required to consult with the Authority's Independent Persons who were present at the meeting.

The Sub-Committee examined the Investigating Officer's report and his conclusion that the Member concerned had not breached the Code of Conduct. Members accepted the findings of the Investigating Officer and complemented him for the thoroughness of his investigation.

Resolved that (1) the findings of the Investigating Officer that no breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred in Complaint NT02/2015 be accepted; and (2) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to write to the Subject Member and to the Complainant to notify them both that the Sub-Committee was satisfied no further action was required and provide them with a copy of the Investigating Officer's final report.