

Minutes of Members' Code of Conduct Committee Assessment Panel

15 July 2016

Present:

Mr Murray Litvak, Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct
Councillor I.T.E. Harvey, Leader of the Council
Councillor R.W. Sider BEM
Councillor B.B. Spoor

167 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

168 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved that under Section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of part 1 of schedule 12a of the Act indicated below.

Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual and on the basis that publication would not be in the public interest because information and documentation is personal and subject to an obligation of confidentiality.

169 Exempt Complaint Assessment Report against Councillor A

The Panel considered the report of the Monitoring Officer concerning a complaint from a member of the public on the conduct of Councillor A in relation to a telephone conversation on 25 April 2016.

The Panel took into consideration the view of the Independent Person which was provided at the meeting. The Panel noted the Independent Person's view that the case appeared to involve a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct and should be investigated further.

The Panel concluded that there was sufficient evidence to indicate a breach of paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Members' Code of Conduct outlined below:

7. "You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example."
9. "You must treat others with respect. This means treating people fairly and equitably and with courtesy, compassion and sensitivity. You should treat other people equally as you yourself would expect to be

treated. You must never use behaviour which a reasonable person would consider as offensive, overbearing, intimidating, malicious, insulting or humiliating.”

The Panel agreed that the case therefore warranted further investigation by the Monitoring Officer.

Resolved to investigate the complaint further with a view to a hearing of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee in the near future.