



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 24th July 2025

STANDARDS AND ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE – REFERRALS PANEL

4th June 2025 at 11.00 a.m.

Present:

Councillors Goodwin, Harness and K Swinburn

Officers in attendance:

- Eve Richardson-Smith (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Rachel Marshall (Executive Member Support Officer)

SREF.1 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.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

SREF.3 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.4 COMPLAINT MO/01/2025

The panel considered the above complaint in accordance with the local standards arrangements.

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

The panel was satisfied that the complaint met Stage 1 of the Assessment Criteria but not Stage 2 and concurred with the view of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Independent Person that no further action be taken as it was not in the public interest for the complaint to be investigated as a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED –

1. That, after having carefully considered the documents filed, no further action be taken on complaint MO/01/2025 as the Stage 2 Assessment Criteria had not been met.
2. That a private apology be given by the councillor to the complainant.
3. That a letter be sent by the Deputy Monitoring Officer to the complainant explaining the reason why the recommendation was for a private apology by the councillor rather than a public one.
4. That at Full Council meetings, the Mayor remind Elected Members to be respectful to one another at all times.

SREF.5 COMPLAINT MO/02/2025

The panel considered the above complaint in accordance with the local standards arrangements.

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

The panel was satisfied that the complaint did not meet Stage 1 of the Assessment Criteria and concurred with the view of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Independent Person that no further action be taken as the complaint cannot be investigated as a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED – That, having carefully considered the documents filed, no further action be taken on complaint MO/02/2025 as the Stage 1 Assessment Criteria had not been met.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.