

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standards Assessment Sub Committee held online via zoom on 27 July 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 12.10 pm and ended at 1.06 pm

8 Election of Chair

Councillor Dean Barrow was elected as Chair.

9 Declarations of interest

None.

10 Confidential/exempt information

The complaint reports were agreed to be dealt with in private session on the grounds that they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; or that the complaint reports contain information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual as defined in paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972.

11 Complaint for assessment C07

The Assessment Sub-Committee reviewed the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and discussed the case, including hearing the views of the Independent Representative, and the Town and Parish Representative. The Assessment Sub-Committee, having regard to the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Local Assessment Criteria, and the views of the Independent Person, decided on the progression of the complaint as follows:

Other action: that the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer asks the subject member to reconsider giving a full apology relating to both comments stated in the complaint. If this approach is not successful, the complaint be referred back to the Assessment Sub-Committee for further consideration.

12 Complaint for assessment C08

The Assessment Sub-Committee reviewed the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and discussed the case, including hearing the views of the Independent Representative, and the Town and Parish Representative. The Assessment Sub-Committee, having regard to the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Local Assessment Criteria, and the views of the Independent Person, decided on the progression of the complaint as follows:

Other action: that the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer pursue the securing of an apology from the subject member to the complaint, and the agreement of the subject member to undergo training on the Code of Conduct, specifically relating to bullying, harassment and intimidation. If the apology and acceptance of training is not undertaken, the complaint be referred for Monitoring Officer investigation.

13 **Complaint for assessment C10**

The Assessment Sub-Committee reviewed the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and discussed the case, including hearing the views of the Independent Representative, and the Town and Parish Representative. The Assessment Sub-Committee, having regard to the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Local Assessment Criteria, and the views of the Independent Person, decided on the progression of the complaint as follows:

No further action.

The Assessment Sub-Committee were in agreement with the view of the Deputy Monitoring Officer that the quoted behaviour of the subject member in the complaint was not recognised by others involved in the same meeting; and that there was no evidence of the complaint's personal or other information being discussed at any subsequent meeting.

14 **Complaint for assessment C11**

The Assessment Sub-Committee reviewed the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer and discussed the case, including hearing the views of the Independent Representative, and the Town and Parish Representative. The Assessment Sub-Committee, having regard to the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Local Assessment Criteria, and the views of the Independent Person, decided on the progression of the complaint as follows:

No further action.

The Assessment Sub-Committee agreed with the Deputy Monitoring Officer's view that there was no evidence of the complaint's personal or other information being discussed at any subsequent meeting.

15 **Complaint for assessment C15**

The Assessment Sub-Committee reviewed the report of the Monitoring Officer and discussed the case, including hearing the views of the Independent Representative, and the Town and Parish Representative. The Assessment Sub-Committee, having regard to the report of the Monitoring Officer, the Local Assessment Criteria, and the views of the Independent Person, decided on the progression of the complaint as follows:

No further action.

The Assessment Sub-Committee felt that the article the subject of the complaint stated a fair position; and that the language used was not rude or disrespectful.

16 **Complaint for assessment C01**

The Assessment Sub-Committee reviewed the report of the Monitoring Officer and discussed the case, including hearing the views of the Independent Representative, and the Town and Parish Representative. The Assessment Sub-Committee, having regard to the report of the Monitoring Officer, the Local Assessment Criteria, and the views of the Independent Person, decided on the progression of the complaint as follows:

No further action.

The Assessment Sub-Committee felt that it was not considered to be in the public interest to continue to expend resources on the matter, particularly reinforced by the fact that were a breach to be found, it is likely to be considered as trivial.

17 **Complaint for assessment C14**

The Assessment Sub-Committee reviewed the report of the Monitoring Officer and discussed the case, including hearing the views of the Independent Representative, and the Town and Parish Representative. The Assessment Sub-Committee, having regard to the report of the Monitoring Officer, the Local Assessment Criteria, and the views of the Independent Person, decided on the progression of the complaint as follows:

No further action.

The Assessment Sub-Committee felt that the recording of the relevant meeting gave a supporting narrative to the comments made by the subject member and clearly indicated ongoing conversations in relation to the complaint issue; therefore they considered there was no reasonable basis to progress the complaint.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

D Barrow (Chair)

C Gardner

P Twiss

Co-optees

P Coulter (Independent Person)

M Goscomb (Independent Representative)

P Stott (Town & Parish Representative)

Officers in attendance:

Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing (and Monitoring Officer)

Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer