

## **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Standards Assessment Sub Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 19 January 2023**

#### **Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 12.15 pm

#### **28 Election of Chair**

Councillor Ian Thomas was elected as Chair for the meeting.

#### **29 Declarations of interest**

None.

#### **30 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.

#### **31 Complaint for assessment C28**

Councillors Thomas and Loudoun notified those present that they were in attendance at the meeting referenced in the complaint being assessed.

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:

##### **Other Action.**

The Assessment Sub-Committee were in agreement with the indicative view of the other representatives present, that inappropriate behaviour had taken place and that the next course of action would be to request an apology be made by the subject member at the next scheduled Council meeting. If that apology was not forthcoming, the complaint be referred directly to independent investigation.

#### **32 Complaint for assessment C29**

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:

##### **Monitoring Officer investigation.**

The Assessment Sub-Committee were in agreement with the view of the Monitoring Officer that there is sufficient detail provided to progress the complaint to investigation.

33 **Complaint for assessment C30**

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:

**Deferral for further clarity.**

The Assessment Sub-Committee were in agreement that further clarity was required, as they did not feel that the information presented gave them enough to reach a clear conclusion on how to progress with the complaint.

34 **Complaint for assessment C31**

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:

**Other action.**

The Assessment Sub-Committee were in agreement with the view of the Monitoring Officer to undertake further discussion with the subject member for the need of respectful comment at all times, and reconsideration of an apology.

**Attendance List**

**Councillors present:**

I Thomas (Chair)  
J Loudoun  
D Barrow

**Also present**

Pat Coulter, Independent Person  
Serena Sexton, Town and Parish Representative  
Robert Wood, Independent Representative

**Officers in attendance:**

Anita Williams, Interim Director of Governance and Licensing and Monitoring Officer  
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer