

MEMBERS STANDARDS HEARING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

PRESENT – Councillors Crudass, K Nicholson and A J Scott

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Bartch, Curry, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Mills, Mrs H Scott, Snedker and Sowerby; George Jabbour and a Member of the Public

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Luke Swinhoe (Assistant Director Law and Governance), Bethany Symonds (Lawyer) and Shirley Wright (Democratic Services Manager)

MSH1 CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor K Nicholson be appointed Chair for the purposes of this meeting.

MSH2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interested reported at this meeting.

MSH3 INVESTIGATION REPORT REF 94 AND 95/2020

The Committee received an Investigation Report under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 relating to a complaint received from a member of the public and jointly by Councillors Curry, Harker and Snedker concerning an allegation that Councillor Culley had breached the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Culley was represented at the meeting by George Jabbour. The Committee considered a preliminary issue raised by Mr Jabbour and heard representations that the meeting should be held in private. The Committee did not consider that the case was made out for the hearing to be held in private and agreed that it was in the public interest to proceed to hold the meeting in public..

Bethany Symonds, the Investigating Officer, presented her investigation report and Members asked questions thereon.

The Committee heard the representations of the complainants and closing representations and thereafter adjourned to make their decision. After reconvening the decision was relayed to all parties at the meeting (with the decision to be subsequently set out in full in a written Decision Notice).

RESOLVED – That there was no breach of the Code of Conduct.