Medway Council Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee Wednesday, 15 March 2023 6.00pm to 6.55pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present:	Councillors: Mrs Diane Chambers (Chairman), Brake, Howcroft- Scott, McDonald, Potter, Price and Tranter
Substitutes:	Councillors: Rodney Chambers, OBE (Substitute for Kemp)
In Attendance:	Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance John Greenhill, Independent Person Vicky Nutley, Head of Legal Services Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

676 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Kemp.

677 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 7 December 2022 was agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as correct.

678 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

679 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

680 Exclusion of the press and public

It was agreed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt material relating to agenda item 6 because consideration of these matters in public would disclose information falling within Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as specified in agenda item 5, and, in all the circumstances of the case, the Committee considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

681 Investigation of complaint - CCC/2022/009

Discussion

The Committee considered the outcome of an investigation into a complaint that Councillor Adeoye had breached the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Before reaching a decision on this matter the Committee also considered the views of an Independent Person, in accordance with Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Adeoye and the Complainant were invited to attend the meeting and address the Committee under its procedures for dealing with complaints about Councillor Conduct. Neither accepted this invitation.

Decisions

- 1) The Committee agreed as a finding of fact that Councillor Adeoye did own the twitter account @sijuadewade and had not denied this. It also determined that she had publicly accused the complainant of being responsible for another twitter account but had provided no explanation of why she believed that to be the case. Lastly it determined that Councillor Adeoye had been invited to informally resolve the complaint by removing tweets associated with the complaint and providing an apology to the complainant, which she had not done in a timely manner.
- The Committee agreed that Councillor Adeoye had acted in breach of paragraphs 2.1(ii) and 7.1 of the Medway Council Member Code of Conduct.
- 3) The Committee determined that because Councillor Adeoye had since deleted all tweets (including the related threads) and had provided the complainant with an apology, no further action would be taken on this matter.

Chairman

Date:

Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 01634 332104 Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk