

Medway Council
Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee
Thursday, 8 May 2025
6.00pm to 6.43pm

Record of the meeting

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

Present: Councillors: McDonald (Chairperson), Howcroft-Scott (Vice-Chairperson), Louwella Prenter and Tejan

Substitutes: Councillors:
Myton (Substitute for Peake)
Perfect (Substitute for Kemp)
Crozer (Substitute for Pearce)
Willey (Substitute for Brake)

In Attendance: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance
Vicky Nutley, Head of Legal Services
Teri Reynolds, Principal Democratic Services Officer

889 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brake, Kemp, Peake and Pearce.

890 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 22 January 2025 was agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

891 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

892 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

Councillor Myton explained that in the correspondence that had been shared as part of the complaint there was reference to the MP for Rochester and Strood, with whom he was closely associated with. However, as the complaint itself did not relate to the MP, nor was the reference a key part to the complaint, he was able to remain in the Committee for the discussion and decision relating to the complaint.

893 Exclusion of the press and public

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 considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

894 Screening of Complaint CCC/2025/003

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which set out the details of a complaint relating to the conduct of a Medway Councillor. He explained that in his absence, the Deputy Monitoring Officer had undertaken initial screening as part of the authority delegated by the Committee to initially screen complaints and she had concluded that it was not appropriate for her, as Deputy Monitoring Officer, to determine that no further action be taken. The matter had therefore been referred to the Committee.

The Committee considered the allegations, having regard to the complaint, as set out in and attached to the Committee report. The Committee's assessment was undertaken with the Screening Process the Committee has adopted for this purpose.

The Committee determined that the allegations made in the complaint could potentially breach of the Member Code of Conduct.

Decision:

The Committee agreed to instruct the Monitoring Officer to conduct an investigation of complaint CCC/2025/003, the outcome of which would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Conduct Committee, 8 May 2025

Chairperson

Date:

Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

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