

Standards Assessment Sub-Committee

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2024 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson (Chairman), Cllr Ernie Clark (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Derek Walters (Substitute) Gordon Ball (non-voting) and
Kathy Barnes (non-voting)

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Gordon King who was substituted by Cllr Derek Walters
Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney
Julie Philips (non-voting), who was substituted by Gordon Ball (non-voting).

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 were presented for
consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

4 **Meeting Procedure and Assessment Criteria**

The procedure and criteria were noted.

5 **Exclusion of the Public**

It was,

Resolved:

**To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government
Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified**

in Minute Numbers 6 onwards, because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Paragraph 1 -information relating to an individual

6 **Assessment of Complaints: COC149256 and COC149258**

In considering the complaint, the Sub-Committee were satisfied that the initial tests of the assessment criteria had been met, including that the Subject Member was a member for the period of allegations and remains a member of Salisbury City Council and Wiltshire Council, that copies of the relevant Codes of Conduct were provided for the assessment, and that they were acting in their capacity as a Member, or that the circumstances may have led to a reasonable presumption from those involved that he had been acting in an official capacity during the alleged actions.

The Sub-Committee therefore had to decide whether the alleged behaviour would, if proven, amount to a breach of that Code of Conduct. Further, if it was felt it would be a breach, whether it was still appropriate under the assessment criteria to refer the matter for investigation.

In reaching its decision, the Sub-Committee took into account the original complaint and supporting information, the response of the Subject Member, and the report of the Monitoring Officer.

The Sub-Committee also considered a written statement from the Subject Member and written statements from both of the Complainants provided at the Assessment Sub-Committee meeting.

After discussion, it was:

Resolved:

In accordance with the approved arrangements for resolving standards complaints adopted by Council on 9 July 2019, which came into effect on 1 January 2020 and after hearing from the Independent Person, the Assessment Sub-Committee determined to refer the linked complaints for investigation.

(Duration of meeting: 1.00 - 1.55 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Alexander of Democratic Services, direct line 01722 434560, e-mail lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line 01225 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk