

Wiltshire Council

Standards Hearing Sub-Committee

Pre-Hearing Process Summary

Authority	Wiltshire Council
Subject Member	Cllr Christopher Humphries
Complainant	Ms Julia Densham
Case reference number	WC 39/11
Chairman of the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee	Mr Stuart Middleton, Chairman (Independent)
Other Members	His Hon David MacLaren Webster QC (Parish Councillor) Councillor Julian Johnson (Wiltshire Council)
Monitoring Officer / Legal Adviser to the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee	Mr Ian Gibbons
Clerk of the hearing	Ms Pam Denton
Investigator	Mrs Marie Lindsay
Date of Pre-Hearing Review	30 May 2012
Summary of the complaint	The complaint concerns Councillor Humphries' alleged behaviour towards Ms Densham, over a period of time, which has made her feel ineffective in her professional responsibilities and vulnerable in her dealings with Councillor Humphries.
Relevant sections of the Code of Conduct	Paragraph 3(1) – You must treat others with respect Paragraph 3(2)(a) – You must not do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments. Paragraph 3(2)(b) – You must not bully any person

Date, time and place of the hearing	3 July 2012 at 10 am in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham
Findings of fact in the investigation report that are agreed	See Appendix A - Investigator's Report and Form A responses (combined version attached for ease of reference)
Findings of fact in the investigation report that are not agreed	See Appendix A - Investigator's Report and Form A responses (combined version attached for ease of reference)
Does the subject member disagree with any findings of the investigation report, including reasons for any of these disagreements?	<p>Yes - all findings of breach are contested.</p> <p>See Cllr Humphries e-mail dated 24 May 2012 raising 3 procedural points which the Sub-Committee will consider as preliminary issues at the hearing.</p>
Does the subject member wish to give evidence to the standards committee, either orally or in writing?	Yes
Does the subject member wish to be represented at the hearing by a solicitor, barrister or any other person?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Mr Peter Keith-Lucas, Solicitor Partner at bevan Brittan, Bristol</p>
Does the subject member want to call relevant witnesses to give evidence to the standards committee?	None, save that Cllr Humphries reserves the right to request that further witnesses are called after considering the additional witnesses the Sub-Committee wish to attend the hearing - see below.

Does the subject member want any of the hearing to be held in private?	No
Does the subject member want any part of the investigation report or other relevant documents to be withheld from the public?	No
Will the Investigator be attending the hearing?	Yes - she will be represented by Frank Cain, Head of Legal
Proposed procedure for the hearing	The Procedure will follow the Council's Procedure for Determination of Referred Complaints by the Standards Committee (attached) as explained by the Chairman at the Pre-hearing Review. This is based on the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and Standards for England guidance.
Additional Directions	<p>As requested by the Sub-Committee, a revised summary table is attached for use at the hearing. This shows the 7 findings which have been referred for hearing; references to the corresponding findings of fact in Appendix A; the corresponding paragraphs in the investigator's report and a note of the facts which are disputed by Cllr Humphries. It also includes details of the findings which have been found to breach the code, where this has been requested by Cllr Humphries in Form A.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee would like the following witnesses to attend the hearing to give evidence in addition to the complainant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Jemima Wilton • Mr Martin Cook, Area Highway Engineer • Mr Dave Roberts, Corsham Community Area Manager <p>The Investigating Officer will arrange for these persons to attend.</p>