

Standards Sub-Committee Report



Monitoring Officer's Report - Consideration of an Appeal against a Decision of the Standards Sub-Committee (Hearing)

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	Yes
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Milton Keynes Standards Sub-Committee (Hearing) met on 11 February 2020 to consider complaints made against Councillor Vikas Chandra of Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council.
- 1.2 The Hearing Sub-Committee found Councillor Chandra in breach of his Code of Conduct. The Decision Notice is at **Annex A**.
- 1.3 On 6 March 2020, Councillor Chandra appealed against the decision of the Hearing Sub-Committee. His appeal submission is attached at **Annex B**.
- 1.4 On 6 March 2020, Ms Abi Bassett appealed against the decision of the Hearing Sub-Committee. Her appeal is attached at **Annex C**.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 Appeals against decisions of the Hearing Sub-Committee are permitted in line with the 'Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011', Section 11. Section 11 states that the Standards Committee Hearing Procedure will apply to the Appeal Sub-Committee.
- 2.2 The Appeal Sub-Committee will therefore follow the same format as the Hearing Sub-Committee in that:
 - (a) it will make findings of fact with regard to the appeal or uphold the previous position;
 - (b) it will assess whether those findings of fact alter the position or add to the position in respect of breach of the Code of Conduct; and

- (c) if the position has changed then it will consider applying sanction, upholding original sanctions or discharging sanctions applied.

3. Appeal 1

3.1 Appeal one concerns the appeal of Councillor Chandra. In coming to conclusions on this, the Appeal Sub-Committee may want to consider:

- (a) Any live submissions made by Councillor Chandra at the Appeal Hearing.
- (b) The Decision Notice at **Annex A**.
- (c) The appeal document submission at **Annex B**.
- (d) The Investigator's report at **Annex D(i)** plus supporting documents at **Annex D(ii)**.
- (e) New evidence before the Appeal Sub-Committee:

The notes of the interview with Councillor Chandra as taken by the Investigator (**Annex E(i)**) and the 'Statement' at **Annex E(ii)**.

4. Appeal 2

4.1 Appeal two concerns the appeal of Ms Abi Bassett. In coming to conclusions on this the Appeal Sub-Committee may want to consider:

- (a) Any live submissions made by Ms Bassett at the Appeal Hearing.
- (b) The Decision Notice at **Annex A**.
- (c) The appeal submission at **Annex C**.
- (d) The Investigator's report at **Annex D(i)** plus supporting documents at **Annex D(ii)** and complaints from Abi Bassett dated 30 October 2019 (**Annex D(iii)**) and 31 October 2019 (**Annex D(iv)**).
- (e) New evidence before the Appeal Sub-Committee:

The email from Paul Cummins dated 03/10/2019 (**Annex F(i)**)

The letter and grievance submitted (**Annex F (ii)**)

Annexes

Annex A	Decision Notice
Annex B	Appeal Submission (Councillor Chandra) (exempt)
Annex C	Appeal Submission (Ms Abigail Bassett) (exempt)
Annex D	Investigator's Report and Supporting Documentation
Annex E	Interview Notes of Councillor Chandra (exempt)
Annex F	Additional Evidence from Ms Abigail Bassett (exempt)
Annex G	Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council Code of Conduct
Annex H	Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011
Annex I	Standards Sub-Committee Hearing Procedure