

# Standards Hearing Sub-Committee report



29 November 2021

## MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT - CONSIDERATION OF A STANDARDS INVESTIGATION REPORT ABOUT AN ELECTED COUNCILLOR

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(Monitoring Officer)**

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	Yes
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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Monitoring Officer of Milton Keynes Council received a complaint about Councillor Hopcraft of Woughton Community Council, regarding alleged breaches of the Community Council's Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 An Assessment Sub-Committee was convened on 9 August 2021 to consider the matter and it was referred for investigation. The decision notice is attached at **Annex A**.
- 1.3 The investigation report was received on 11 November 2021 and the Monitoring Officer has, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, called a Hearing Sub-Committee to consider the matter.

### 2. Action Required

- 2.1 The purpose of the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee is to allow the Sub-Committee to consider the evidence supplied by both the Member who is the subject of the complaint and the Investigating Officer, and make a decision as to:
  - (a) the findings of fact;
  - (b) whether the Member subject to the complaint has breached the Code of Conduct; and

- (c) any sanction if it is found that the Member subject to the complaint has breached the Code of Conduct.

### 3. Issues and Procedure

3.1 This report outlines the process that is to be followed when considering the investigation report and the options that are open to the Sub-Committee.

3.2 As supporting materials, the Sub-Committee has:

- (a) The decision notice following the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 9 August 2021 (**Annex A**) (confidential)
- (b) The Investigator's report, dated 11 November 2021 (**Annex B**) (confidential)
- (c) Papers considered at the Assessment Sub-Committee held on 9 August 2021 (**Annex C**) (confidential)
- (d) Milton Keynes Council's Arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011 (**Annex D**)
- (e) Milton Keynes Council Standards Committee Hearing Procedure (**Annex E**)