

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

16 SEPTEMBER 2020

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

The Mayor has ruled, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the following matter arising from a decision of the Standards Sub-Committee held on 10 September 2020, should be considered as a matter of urgency in light of the Council considering the appointment of Deputy Mayor at this meeting and considering appointments to committees.

Standards Sub-Committee – 20 September 2020

Monitoring Officer's Report - Consideration of a Standards Investigation Report About an Elected Councillor

'RESOLVED –

That Councillor Priestley should submit a formal, written apology to the Monitoring Officer, for the Full Council, to be published for a Council Meeting.'

In compliance with the decision above, a copy of the apology submitted by Councillor Priestley to the Monitoring Officer on 15 September 2020 is set out below for the Council's information:

"It is my honour and privilege to serve as a councillor on Milton Keynes Council.

The Council expects the highest standards of behaviour and conduct from its members. As a mother and daughter I expect no less from myself.

You are aware that in May a number of serious allegations regarding my financial conduct were made in the media about me. I am grateful that all the investigations regarding these allegations have concluded they are without foundation, including in a court of law.

However, you are also aware that the Standards Sub-Committee concluded that I breached the Code of Conduct by failing to ensure my Declaration of Interest was up to date.

I understand I have failed to meet the standards expected of me for which I'm profoundly sorry.

I am grateful that the Sub-Committee found that the failure to ensure my declaration was up to date did not result in any personal benefit, but I do understand that we must all be seen to uphold the highest standards.

I will undertake the full range of sanctions the Sub-Committee has recommended, and I will no longer serve on the Audit Committee.

Furthermore, this issue has resulted in me feeling I am unable to serve as our Deputy Mayor. This is a great loss for me and something that hurts me deeply, but I hope it serves as an example to our community about the regard in which I hold this Council and our highest Civic Office. Standards we all need to aspire to and uphold.

I look forward to working for the residents of Central Milton Keynes and support our residents at this difficult time and thank the council for listening to this apology.”