

Regarding Cllr Baines

I note that Cllr Baines referred himself to the Standards Committee in connection with a remark he made on Twitter. This assumes he was self-aware his tweet was inappropriate. I concur that the actions of Cllr Baines needs to be considered by the Standards Committee.

I note you have not received any other formal complaint regarding his remark but the comment he made particularly as it is on social media will not have gone unnoticed, and I believe the general public will be expecting MKDC to take some form of action.

The following paragraphs of the Code apply:

1. Provide leadership to the Authority within its area by personal example

In my opinion Cllr Baines, as a community leader, showed a very poor personal example by expressing what was a clearly inappropriate view using social media.

2. Respect others and not bully any person

Cllr Baines showed disrespect towards a specific sector of the community.

3. Not to do anything to cause the Authority to breach its Equality duties

In my view Cllr Baines remark was derogatory and he breached the Authority's equality duty.

4. Not do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for or on behalf of the Authority

His remark could be interpreted by staff as endorsing a particular viewpoint and might compromise them in making decisions relating to projects in which the Cllr was involved.

6. Bring the Authority into disrepute

On reading his remark it is possible that members of the general public could be misled into thinking he was expressing the Authority's view.

On balance I believe the actions of the Cllr should be considered by the Standards Committee.

Maureen Briggs
Independent Member
31 May 2020