

STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING

Summary of a Hearing in relation to a possible breach of the Members' Code of Conduct

23 July 2009, 2.00pm
Viersen Room, Town Hall

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| Name of Member | Councillor Darren Morley |
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| Relevant section of the Members' Code of Conduct | Finding of the Committee |
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| Paragraph 3.1 You must treat others with respect | Did not fail to follow the code (Unanimous) |
| Paragraph 5 You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office into disrepute | Failed to follow the code (Unanimous) |

| The Proceedings |
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| <p>Following referral by the Investigation Officer, an investigation into a complaint made about Councillor Morley was presented to the Adjudication sub-committee of the Standards Committee for Peterborough City Council.</p> <p>In order to determine the findings of fact, the committee was addressed by the Investigation Officer and Councillor Morley. The committee questioned both parties to clarify any issues. The committee adjourned in order for the panel to determine the findings of fact.</p> <p>The findings of fact were presented to the Investigation Officer and Councillor Morley who were able to make representation about whether the findings constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct. The committee adjourned in order for the panel to determine whether the facts constituted a breach of the Code.</p> <p>The committee unanimously agreed that the facts did constitute a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct in one of the two instances considered (paragraph 5 of the Code but not paragraph 3.1) and therefore proceeded to determine what sanction should be imposed. The committee recommended to Councillor Morley an appropriate sanction to be imposed for him to consider. Councillor Morley accepted the sanction proposed by the committee and did not suggest an alternative.</p> <p>The Chairman made recommendation to the Authority and then closed the meeting.</p> |

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| Sanction Imposed |
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Cllr Morley is to attend a one to one session with the Monitoring Officer for training on the Code of Conduct including acceptable behaviour in public life. This sanction is to be carried out by the end of September 2009. Failure to carry out such training will result in referral to the Standards committee.

Reasons

The sanction is considered to be constructive and will assist Cllr Morley to appropriately deal with any future confrontational situations that might arise in his role as a Councillor.

The severity of the incident did not warrant any further sanction that might restrict Councillor Morley in carrying out his duties as a Councillor.

Right to Appeal

Councillor Morley has the right to apply in writing to the president of the Adjudication Panel for England for permission to appeal the standards committee's finding. The president of the Adjudication Panel must receive written notice within 21 days of the member's receipt of notification of the standards committee's finding.

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declaration of Interests (if any)**
3. **Exclusion of Press and Public**
4. **Adjudication on a complaint received against a Council Member**

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CHAIRMAN
2.00 - 4.45 pm