

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ADJUDICATION & REVIEW COMMITTEE (STANDARDS - INITIAL
ASSESSMENT PANEL)**

**Committee Room 2 - Town Hall
12 December 2013 (6.30 - 7.00 pm)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group Barry Oddy and Frederick Thompson (Vice-Chair)

Residents' Group John Mylod

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

4 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee resolved to exclude the public from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that if members of the public were present it was likely that, given the nature of the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which could reveal information relating to an individual.

5 CONSIDERATION OF AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT (CASE NUMBERS C039/13, C040/13, C041/13, C042/13 & C043/13)

The Sub-Committee had met to consider five allegations that Councillor A had breached the Members' Code of Conduct. Complaints had been received from Councillors B, C, D, E and F. Councillor. Councillor D had also made allegations concerning the behaviour of Councillors G and H.

The five allegations in respect of Councillor A arise out of the views he expressed in relation to the proposed merger of the 'back room' functions of Havering and Newham Councils. These statements were made at the Cabinet meeting on 20 November, in comments made to the Romford Recorder and published in an article in the week commencing 18 November, and at the Council meeting on 27 November.

Prior to the Council meeting Councillor G had sent a series of e-mails to Officer J, which Councillor D alleged amounted to bordering on bullying.

On the evening of the council meeting, after the Mayor had closed the meeting Councillor D alleged that Councillor H had goaded Councillor A with unacceptable language.

The Sub-Committee concluded that

- All five allegations concerning Councillor should be referred to the Monitoring Officer for formal investigation and upon completion of the investigation to report thereon to a hearings panel,
- The allegation against Councillor G should be referred to the Monitoring Officer for formal investigation and upon completion of the investigation to report thereon to a hearings panel,
- The allegation against Councillor H be dismissed as showing, no or insufficient, evidence of a breach warranting further investigation although he should receive a warning as to his behaviour, and
- The Monitoring Officer should write to Councillor H reminding him of the Councillors Code of Conduct and his duty to comply with it.

Chairman