

Meeting date: 24 November 2022

Report to: Governance Committee

Report title: Code of Conduct Investigation Outcome

Report from: Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Report author/lead contact officer: Deborah Merry dmerry@solihull.gov.uk

Wards affected:

- All Wards | Bickenhill | Blythe | Castle Bromwich | Chelmsley Wood |
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath | Elmdon | Kingshurst/Fordbridge | Knowle |
 Lyndon | Meriden | Olton | Shirley East | Shirley South |
 Shirley West | Silhill | Smith's Wood | St Alphege
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Public/private report: Public

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to advise the Governance Committee of the outcome of an investigation completed recently under the Code of Conduct for Councillors Complaints Procedure.

2. Decision(s) Recommended

- 2.1 This report is for information only and the Committee is asked to note the report.

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1. Matters for Consideration

- 1.1 The Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors Complaints Procedure requires that in cases of complaints about Councillors that are referred for formal investigation, the outcome of the investigation will be reported to the next meeting of the Governance Committee.
- 1.2 A formal investigation has recently been completed into a number of complaints about Cllrs R Sexton and S Caudwell relating to content they had posted on social media.
- 1.3 The outcome of the investigation was that the Independent Investigating Officer found there had been no breach of the Code of Conduct by either of the Councillors.
- 1.4 As required by the Complaints Procedure the Monitoring Officer discussed this finding with an Independent Person appointed by the Council under the Localism Act 2011, who concluded that the Investigating Officer had carried out a thorough investigation and he saw no significant area of omission.
- 1.5 In accordance with the Complaints Procedure, the Monitoring Officer accepted the Investigating Officer's findings and concluded that no further action should be taken in relation to the complaints. The complaints about the two Councillors are therefore closed.

2. Background papers used to compile this report

- 2.1 Solihull MBC Code of Conduct for Councillors Complaints Procedure

3. List of Other Relevant Documents

- 3.1 None