

MINUTES OF **STANDARDS COMMITTEE INITIAL ASSESSMENT**
HEARING PANEL

MEETING DATE **Thursday, 1 August 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Carol Wooldridge (Chair), Karen Walton (Vice-Chair) and Renee Blow and Barry Parsonage (Independent Person)

OFFICERS: Dave Whelan (Legal Services Manager/Interim Monitoring Officer) and Coral Astbury (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

OTHER MEMBERS:

PUBLIC: 0

15 Apologies for Absence

None.

16 Declarations of Interest

None.

17 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: (Unanimously)

That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

By virtue of Paragraph 1: information relating to any individual.

18 Initial Assessment Hearing

The Panel met to consider a report and background information relating to a complaint made against Councillor A by a member of the Council. The context of the complaint is the attempt by the Council to find a bidder to occupy Worden Hall and the conduct of Councillor A.

The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that he had wrote to Councillor A and had received a response. Subsequent to the receipt of Councillor A's response the Interim Monitoring Officer spoke to two senior officers in order to try get further clarity over the events in question. Following the officer's response there seemed to be some discrepancies between Councillor A and the officer's version of events.

The Panel considered the views of the Independent Person and considered how the situation would be viewed from a Member of the Public's position. With that in mind,

the Panel felt that Councillor A should be given an opportunity to review his response in light of new information provided by the senior officers.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously)

The Interim Monitoring Officer is to write back to Councillor A to explain the complaint had been received by a Standards Haring Panel and to detail the further information given by senior officers.

Councillor A would be invited to respond at which point the complaint will come back before the panel for further consideration.

Chair

Date