

STANDARDS ASSESSMENT PANEL

27 January 2016 at 7.00pm
PART 1 - PUBLIC

PRESENT:

Councillors. Gordon, Mann, Shaw and Young

Independent Non-Voting Member: Mr J Beastall (Chair).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Ball

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr M Budd, (Independent Person) and Ms Oumou Sall

2. Urgent Matters

There were none.

3. Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

4. Complaint Against a Councillor

Summary of Complaint:

A resident of Ealing, complained that Councillor x had breached the Code of Conduct for Members and specifically paragraphs 3 and 5. In particular the complaint was that at the Planning Committee meeting on 3 June 2015, Councillor x made reference to a site visit and stated “in another situation he/she would have punched the aggressor on the nose”.

Helen Harris, Director, Legal and Democratic Services, told the Panel that having consulted with the independent persons on this case, one of those independent people had felt that this matter was potentially a breach of the Code of Conduct and therefore Helen Harris had progressed the complaint to the Standards Assessment Panel.

The chair raised the question of whether Councillor x agreed that he/she said what was alleged at the Planning Committee on 3 June 2015. Helen Harris said she had spoken to Cllr x and clarified that he/she had agreed that he/she said something similar to that alleged by the complainant.

After a full discussion, the Panel unanimously agreed that the comment made by Councillor x did not amount to a threat of violence and that the conduct complained of was not capable of amounting to a breach of the Code of Conduct for Councillors. Accordingly, it was not appropriate to refer the matter for investigation.

Resolved:

The Standards Assessment Panel:

- i. agrees that the public interest required that consideration of this complaint be held in private.
- ii. agrees that the conduct of Councillor x complained of would not amount to a breach of Ealing’s Code of Conduct for Councillors.

- iii. instructs the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to notify the complainant and Councillor x of the Panel's decision.
- iv. agrees that the public minutes of the meeting should not name the councillor.

Reason for Decision

The council adopted a new standards procedure in [June 2012](#), in accordance with the requirements of chapter 7 of the [Localism Act 2011](#). The standards procedure is set out in appendix 2 of the report and the council's Code of Conduct for Councillors is set out at appendix 3 of the report. The council has duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members.

The Standards Assessment Panel considered that Councillor x's behaviour at the Planning Committee on 3 June 2015 would not amount to a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct for members.

JOHN BEASTALL (Chair)

The meeting finished at 7:15pm