

Lewes District Council
Standards Panel Hearing – 19 March 2021
Order of Proceedings

1. Chair to explain the roles of those officiating at the hearing, as follows—
 - (i) Standards Panel, consisting of Cllrs Robinson, Davis and Burman. The Panel will hear submissions from the investigating officer (Alex Oram of ch&i associates), the complainant (Karen Rigby-Faux) and the subject member (Cllr Stephen Gauntlett); and, having regard to the investigating officer's written report and all other submissions received—
 - a) decide whether Cllr Gauntlett failed to comply with Lewes District Council's Code of Conduct for Members; and
 - b) if there was a failure, decide what sanction (if any) to impose or recommend.
 - (ii) Independent Person (Neal Robinson) – whose views on the allegations against Cllr Gauntlett **must** be sought by the Panel and taken into account before they decide on whether he failed to comply with the Code. The Independent Person himself does not vote on the matter; the final decision rests solely with the 3-person Panel.

If the Panel decides that a failure did occur, the Panel will consult the Independent Person before deciding whether to apply or recommend a sanction (and if so, what).
 - (iii) Monitoring Officer (Oliver Dixon) and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Simon Russell) – to provide independent advice to the Panel on matters of law and procedure. They will not express any view on the evidence heard or seek to influence the Panel's decision.
 - (iv) Committee Officer (Elaine Roberts) – to take minutes

APPENDIX 6

2. Investigating officer (Alex Oram) presents his report and recommendations.
3. Questions from the Panel to the investigating officer.
4. Representations from the complainant (Karen Rigby-Faux) to the Panel. *The complainant may refer to the investigator's report and presentation but may not introduce new evidence or arguments. Time limit: 15 mins*
5. Questions from the Panel to the complainant.
6. Representations from the subject member (Cllr Gauntlett) to the Panel. *The subject member may refer to the investigator's report and presentation but may not introduce new evidence or arguments. Time limit: 15 mins*
7. Questions from the Panel to the subject member.
8. Panel retires to consider their decision.
9. Once the Panel reaches their decision, the hearing reconvenes and the Chair announces the decision as to whether or not, in respect of the allegation, the subject member failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.
10. If the Panel finds there was a failure, they shall invite representations from the subject member as to any sanction the Panel might impose, i.e. any mitigating factors he wishes the Panel to take into account. *Subject member may speak for up to 5 minutes.*
11. Panel retires to consider what (if any) sanctions to impose.
12. Panel reconvenes and the Chair announces its decision on sanctions.
13. The Monitoring Officer will, in consultation with the Chair, prepare a notice of the Panel's decision and any sanctions as soon as practicable after the hearing, and publish it on the Council's website. A copy of the notice will be sent to the subject member and complainant. The Panel's decision will be reported to the next convenient meeting of the full Council.