

Lewes District Council

Standards Panel Hearing – 23 November 2021

Order of Proceedings

1. Chair to introduce the Panel members and those advising or assisting, as follows–
 - (i) Standards Panel, consisting of Cllrs Christine Robinson, Christine Brett and Nancy Bikson.

The role of the Panel is–

(a) to hear verbal submissions from:

- the Investigating Officer, Sandra Prail
- the complainant, Cllr Phil Davis
- the Member against whom the allegation was made, Cllr Linington ('the Subject Member')
- the witness called by the Subject Member

(b) having regard to the Investigating Officer's written report and all verbal submissions received, to decide–

- whether Cllr Linington failed to comply with Lewes District Council's Code of Conduct for Members; and
- if there was a failure, what sanction (if any) to impose or recommend.

- (ii) Independent Person, Neal Robinson – whose views on the allegation against Cllr Linington **must** be sought by the Panel and taken into account before we decide on whether she failed to comply with the Code. The Independent Person himself does not vote on the matter; the final decision rests solely with the three Panel members.

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) The Monitoring Officer, Oliver Dixon, and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Simon Russell, who will provide impartial 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 (Nick Peeters) – to take minutes

The hearing of verbal submissions and any questioning of the Subject Member or witnesses will take place in open session. The Panel's deliberations will take place in private. The Panel's decisions will be announced in open session.

2. Investigating Officer to present her written report.
3. Questions from the Panel to the Investigating Officer (and to the complainant if necessary).
4. Submissions to the Panel from the complainant
5. Questions to the complainant from the Panel.
6. Submissions to the Panel from the Subject Member.
7. Questions from the Panel to the Subject Member (and to her witness if necessary).
8. Investigating Officer, complainant and Subject Member to sum up.
9. Panel goes into closed session to consider their decision.
10. 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.
11. If the Panel finds there was a failure, they will invite representations from the Subject Member as to any sanction the Panel might impose, i.e. any mitigating factors she wishes the Panel to take into account.
12. Panel goes into closed session to consider what (if any) sanctions to impose.
13. Panel reconvenes and the Chair announces the decision on sanctions.
14. 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.