

Agenda Item No:	4	
Committee:	Conduct Committee	
Date:	2nd November 2018	
Report Title:	Conduct Committee Hearing - Councillor Sam Hoy	

1. Purpose / Summary

To consider a complaint under the Member Code of Conduct against Councillor Sam Hoy of Fenland District Council

2. Background

On 2nd May 2018 the Monitoring Officer received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the conduct of Councillor Sam Hoy. In particular the allegations amounted to the following potential breaches of the Code:

1. That Councillor Hoy had failed to treat others with respect in that she had referred to the complainant as nasty and aggressive on social media without having met him herself;
2. That Councillor Hoy had bullied the complainant both herself and also by inciting others again via social media;
3. That Councillor Hoy had disclosed information on social media in contravention of the Data Protection Act; and
4. That the above acts could reasonably be regarded as bringing her or Fenland District Council into disrepute.

Councillor Hoy was offered the opportunity to provide an initial written response to the complaint which she did on 20th July 2018. In providing her response Councillor Hoy has denied the allegations in their entirety. The response was shared with the complainant on 30th July 2018. The complainant responded on 1st August 2018 confirming that the response had not addressed the concerns raised and requesting that the complaint was progressed to the next stage.

The information outlined above was considered through the Conduct Committee's pre-screening process on 14th August 2018. The panel of the Independent Person and Deputy Independent Person determined that it was appropriate for the allegations described under paragraph 1, 3 and 4 should go forward for consideration by the Conduct Committee as they felt that a breach of the Code of Conduct may have occurred. The allegation described under paragraph 2 was however dismissed and this has been communicated to the complainant and Councillor Hoy.

The information to be considered by the Conduct Committee and attached to this report comprises exempt information which is not for publication by virtue of paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and includes:

- Section 1: Complaint and associated documents;
- Section 2: Councillor Hoy's response.
- Section 3: Complainant's rejection of the response;
- Section 4: Contemporaneous note from pre-screening of the complaint together with newspaper articles viewed during this process.

The Conduct Committee is asked to consider the complaint and determine what next steps should be taken.

3. Recommendations

For Members to consider whether to:

- A. Dismiss the complaint with no further action taken or;
- B. Commission an investigation to consider all of the issues raised for consideration by the Conduct Committee at a future hearing.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	
Report Originator(s)	Amy Brown, Interim Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer(s)	Amy Brown, Interim Monitoring Officer
Background Paper(s)	Member Code of Conduct