

East Northamptonshire Joint Standards Complaints Committee

2019-05 - Complaint Initial Assessment Outcome

Anonymised Summary

In July 2019 a complaint was received in relation to a Councillor serving on East Northamptonshire Council. The complaint alleged that the councillor concerned had broken the following paragraphs of the adopted Code of Conduct for East Northamptonshire Council whilst carrying out activities related to planning applications in the Rushden areas :

1.0 Introduction

As a Councillor you are a representative of the Council, and the public and other stakeholders will form a view of East Northamptonshire Council as a result of your actions. As such you must conduct yourself in a manner which is consistent with the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct of Councillors.

2.1 Selflessness

As a public figure, your public role as a Councillor may overlap with your personal or professional life and interests. However, as a Councillor you will serve only the public interest and will never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person. At all times you will act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in you.

2.2 Integrity and honesty

You will consider your actions carefully to avoid placing yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned and will on all occasions avoid improper behaviour or the appearance of improper behaviour.

2.5.4 The law says that if you have a DPI you must **not** become involved in the discussions nor must you vote in relation to such matters. If you have other interests in the matter you should also consider if it is appropriate for you to take part in the discussions or debate.

2.6 Leadership

You will promote and support these principles by leadership and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence and avoids bringing your role or the council into disrepute.

In accordance with the adopted procedure for the consideration of complaints against Councillors (https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/4455/part_9_-_procedure_for_assessment) the Monitoring Officer contacted the councillor concerned and sought their view on the complaint. This was then considered, together with the complaint, the views of the Vice Chair of the Joint Standards Committee and the Independent Person, by the Monitoring Officer before reaching a decision. Both agreed that this complaint should be referred for investigation

The investigation has taken place and concluded that there was no breach and that no further action should be taken.

Monitoring Officer

December 2020