

Committee: Appeal Sub (Standards) Committee	Date: 28 September 2018
Subject: Standards Appeal – Ms Susan Pearson	Non-Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Martin Newton Committee and Member Services Officer	

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

By virtue of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Summary

The details of an appeal by Susan Pearson relating to the decision of the Hearing Sub (Standards) Committee on 21 May 2018, that Susan Pearson had breached the Members' Code of Conduct in January 2018 by speaking and voting on a matter at the Planning and Transportation Committee in which she had a direct pecuniary interest without a dispensation to do so, are set out in agenda item 12.

The agreed procedure for the appeal is set out in agenda item 11. After all representations have been heard, the members of the Sub Committee should deliberate in private to reach its decision on the appeal.

Recommendation:

That after considering all relevant matters the Sub Committee decide whether the decisions of the Hearing Sub (Standards) Committee, which are the subject of the appeal, were correct. The Sub Committee may substitute any alternative decision that it considers appropriate, providing it is a decision that the Hearing Sub Committee had the power to make.

Main Report

Background

1. The Assessment Sub (Standards) Committee that met on 13 March 2018 authorised an investigation into a potential breach of the Members' Code of Conduct by Susan Pearson. An external investigator (John Austin) was subsequently appointed by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Assessment Sub (Standards) Committee, to carry out the formal investigation.
2. The Hearing Sub (Standards) Committee duly considered the investigation officer's report on 21 May 2018 and concluded that Susan Pearson had breached the Members' Code of Conduct in January 2018 by speaking and voting on a matter at the Planning and Transportation Committee in which she had a direct pecuniary interest without a dispensation to do so. A subsequent meeting of the Hearing Sub (Standards) Committee in June 2018 decided to impose a sanction in relation to its findings that a breach had occurred.
3. Following the Hearing Sub (Standards) Committee in May an appeal was formally lodged by Susan Pearson and grounds for the appeal were received by the Town Clerk in August 2018

Documents

4. The documents that are required to be considered in relation to the appeal are attached to the agenda and were circulated to Sub Committee members on 5 September.

Conclusion

5. Following the appeal hearing, your Sub-Committee is asked to determine whether the decisions of the Hearing Sub (Standards) Committee, which are the subject of the appeal, were correct. The Sub Committee may substitute any alternative decision that it considers appropriate, providing it is a decision that the Hearing Sub Committee had the power to make.

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