



Audit & Governance Sub Committee

PUBLIC

Tuesday 14th November 2023

Venue: Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon PE29 3TN

Time: 10.00 to 12:10pm

Present: Cllr Mark Inskip
Cllr A Coles
Cllr S Smith
Mr John Pye

East Cambs District Council
Peterborough City Council
Cambridge City Council
Independent Person (Chair)

Minutes:

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Wilson, substituted by Cllr Mark Inskip

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 No disclosable interests were declared.

3 The Hearing Panel (hereafter referred to as the Panel) to determine whether the confidential report may be considered in public

3.1 The Chair asked all those present to advise whether they wished for the confidential report to be discussed in public, and to provide their reasons if they wished the report to be discussed in closed session.

3.2 The following points were discussed:-

- The content of the report addressed several forms of exempt information and it would not be in the public interest for this to be discussed in public.
- There would be concerns around breaching sensitive information if the report was discussed in an open session.
- Witnesses who had provided information for the report would not have expected it to be discussed in public and the CPCA did not have their consent.
- To go into exempt session would allow those present to freely express views that were required for the report to be considered thoroughly.
- The CA would expose itself to risk if it was to allow the report to be discussed in public without giving regard to the welfare of the individuals involved.
- There would be a potential breach of the GDPR legislation.

3.3 It was RESOLVED unanimously to consider the confidential report in private.

4 Exclusion of Press and Public - Matters for Consideration in Private

4.1 In accordance with Standing Orders, the Panel was asked to determine whether discussion of items 5 & 6 on the agenda, which contained exempt information under LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 1 and 2 (ie, Information relating to an individual and/or Information that was likely to reveal the identity of an individual) should be exempt and the press and public excluded from the meeting. The Panel needed to decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in the disclosure of the Investigator's Report.

4.2	<p>It was RESOLVED unanimously to:</p> <p>Exclude the Press and Public from the discussion of Agenda Item 5 & 6 on the basis that this would involve the discussion of exempt information relating to the LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 1 and 2 – Information relating to an individual and/or Information that was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>
5	Code of Conduct Complaints against the Member
5.1	The Panel considered the confidential report.
6	The Chairman to move that the remainder of the meeting should reconvene in an open session.
6.1	It was RESOLVED unanimously that the remainder of the meeting should reconvene in an open session.
7	Code of Conduct Complaints against the Member - Decision of the subcommittee in accordance with Paragraphs 16.12. 1- 16.13.4 of the Constitution.
7.1	The Panel RESOLVED that they agreed with the findings of the Investigator that Mayor Dr Nik Johnson did breach CPCA's Code of Conduct in relation to Civility and Disrepute.
7.2	The Panel RESOLVED unanimously that the Investigator's report should not be published.
7.3	<p>The Panel RESOLVED the following sanctions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish the Findings in the Decision Notice. 2. Report Findings to the CA Board. 3. The Mayor to provide a written apology for the Decision Notice and consult with the Monitoring Officer on the appropriateness of providing a written apology directly to one or more of the complainants. 4. The Mayor to provide an undertaking not to repeat his behaviour, and to agree with the Chief Executive an appropriate development and training programme to take place over the next six months; this should include the appropriate HR best-practice when operating in a senior Member role.
7.4	<p>The Panel RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The CPCA Board to agree a comprehensive Induction process for whenever a new Mayor takes up their appointment. 2) To recommend that the Audit & Governance committee review the relevant parts of the Constitution, in the light of the lessons learned from this first Sub-Committee hearing and make recommendations to the CA Board.
7.5	The Chair invited the Mayor to provide any comments. The Mayor read out a prepared statement including an apology to those that had made the complaints.