

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Standards Determination Sub Committee **DATE:** 9 October 2018

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WARDS: Wexham Lea

PART I **FOR DECISION**

COMPLAINT OF FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT - WEXHAM COURT PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR AKBAR

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to submit for consideration the Investigating Officer's report on the results of his investigation into a complaint that Parish Councillor Shaida Akbar failed to comply with the Councillors' Code of Conduct (**Appendix A**).

2. Recommendation/Action Required

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the Investigating Officer's report and resolve what further action, if any, is required.

3. Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

It is important that the public have confidence in all Members of the Council who are duty bound to abide by the provisions contained in the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the Council's own Ethical Framework. Furthermore, it is a prime function of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members.

4. Other Implications

There are no direct financial or staffing implications arising out of this report. The process of hearing and determining the allegation will be in accordance with the procedure for conduct of a Sub-Committee hearing set out in the Council's constitution. Any potential human rights issues which might arise are addressed and provided for in the hearing procedure.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 A complaint was received from Wexham Parish Councillor Sandra Malik regarding the conduct of Wexham Parish Councillor Shaida Akbar. The complaint relates to social media messages passed (it is alleged) between Parish Councillor Akbar and Councillor Haqeeq Dar (Borough Councillor and Labour Group Chief Whip).

5.2 The Monitoring Officer, having consulted the Council's Independent Person as required in the Complaints Process, referred the complaint for investigation. He appointed John Austin Associates to conduct the investigation into the complaint. The Monitoring Officer considered the Investigating Officer's final report and decided that it should be sent for determination by the Standards (Determination) Sub-Committee.

5.3 Enclosed for consideration of the Sub-Committee are the following documents:

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Document</u>
Appendix A	Investigating Officer's Report
Appendix A1	Schedule of Evidence
Appendix B	Investigation and Determination of Complaints (including Procedure for conduct of a Sub-Committee hearing)

5.4 The procedure for the hearing will be as set out in **Appendix B** and any guidance and/or advice the Sub-Committee may require will be provided by the Monitoring Officer, Hugh Peart.

6. Conclusion

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the evidence presented and come to a decision as to what action, if any, should be taken in respect of this matter. The Procedure for the Sub-Committee (**Appendix B**) sets out what conclusions the Sub-Committee may come to and what action it may take.

7. Background Papers

None.