



Council

4 November 2019

Subject: Members' Code of Conduct - Investigation Report

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Corporate Policy & Governance Manager/ Deputy
Monitoring Officer

Purpose / Summary:

To present the findings of an investigation into
an alleged breach of the Members' Code of
Conduct by Cllr Roger Patterson, Ward Member
for Scampton

RECOMMENDATION(S): That Members note the content of the investigation
and support the recommendations made within it regarding the sanctions to be
applied

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None – this does not impinge on the realms of civil or criminal law
(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial: None

Staffing: None

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None

Data Protection Implications: None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: [Members' Revised Code of Conduct](#)

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment: None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

☐

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

☐

No

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Executive Summary

If the main body of your report is longer than 4 sides of A4 then you are required to complete an executive summary. Please summarise the entire content of the report, its purpose and the decisions you require on one side of A4.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At Annual Council In May 2017, West Lindsey District Council adopted a revised Members' Code of Conduct for elected and co-opted Members of the Council.
- 1.2 The Code sets out for Members the principles they must have regard for in carrying out their duties:
 - Selflessness
 - Integrity
 - Objectivity
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Honesty
 - Leadership
- 1.3 When Members are deemed to have not upheld any or a combination of the principles, complaints can be made to the Monitoring Officer for consideration.
- 1.4 The Monitoring Officer, (in conjunction with the Independent Person and Group Leader) has to determine whether:
 - The Code was engaged (i.e was the Member(s) acting in an official capacity when events arose to prompt the complaint?)
 - If so, does the matter warrant formal investigation, or is informal resolution a more appropriate approach?

2. Complaints (x2) made against Cllr Roger Patterson

- 2.1 Two complaints (received on 31st July 2019) were made by members of the public against Cllr Roger Patterson. They referred to comments he had allegedly posted on social media on 9th and 24th July 2019, which were deemed to be offensive and advocated violence against Jeremy Corbyn and his supporters.
- 2.2 Having considered the complaints with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer found that the Code had been engaged and deemed the matters to be worthy of formal investigation.
- 2.3 The investigation has been conducted and is reported in Appendix 1.

3. Recommendation:

Members are asked to consider and approve the recommendations contained at Section 6 of the investigation report.