

Members,

I have received some queries about the question asked in Full Council about the exclusion of a Member of the Council from the Council's buildings and meetings. With permission from the Mayor, I was able to answer the question and give reasons for my decision.

The decision to exclude the Member concerned was not taken lightly and took into account not only the rights of the Member, but the rights of other Members and officers of the Council. The decision balanced the need to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and Members and the proper functioning of the Council's democratic process, as against the Member's rights to attend Council meetings.

Under the Council's Constitution, as Chief Executive, I have overall corporate management and operational responsibility. This gives me the right to exclude anyone who poses a threat to the safety and well-being of staff, Members, and indeed, other members of the public who may visit the building.

Before making the decision I took advice from the Monitoring Officer. In view of the unusual circumstances she also obtained advice from a specialist Regulatory and Public Sector Solicitor. The advice from both supported my decision.

I appreciate that my decision has a significant impact on those concerned, and consequently, I intend to keep the matter under review.