



EAST RIDING

OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

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Caroline Lacey Director of Corporate Resources

To: Councillors M Chadwick, J Head and
P Davison,
Town and Parish Council Representative
Mrs E Hunter and
Independent Member Mrs M Stevenson
(for attention)

Your Ref:
Our Ref: Agenda/JL
Enquiries to: Julie Lidster
E-Mail: julie.lidster@eastriding.gov.uk
Tel: Direct: (01482) 393211
Fax. Number: (01482) 393269
Date: 29 November 2016

All other Members of the Standards
Committee (for information)

NB - Conservative Chairman at this meeting
(Councillor M Chadwick)

To: All Town and Parish Councils
(for information)

Dear Councillor

I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HEARING) will be held at COUNTY HALL, CROSS STREET, BEVERLEY on WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2016 at 2:00 PM.

The business to be transacted is as set out below.

Yours sincerely

Julie Lidster

for Caroline Lacey
Director of Corporate Resources

Enc

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests - Members to declare any interests in items on the agenda and the nature of such interests.
2. Local Investigation of Complaints: LA/SASC/138/139/140/141/142(a)-(w) and 144/Peacock/East Riding of Yorkshire/Beverley - Councillor Dominic Peacock - East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council - Report of the Democratic Services Manager (pages 4 - 14).



NOTE: (a) The Membership of the Committee for this meeting will comprise Councillors M Chadwick (to Chair), J Head and P Davison, Mrs E Hunter (Parish Council Representative) and Mrs M Stevenson (Independent Member).

(b) Attached at pages 1 - 3 is the summary of Local Determination Procedure.

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 members of the public may film, record, take photographs or use social networking during Council meetings that are open to the public. Members of the public who do not wish to be filmed during meetings should make this known to the committee manager prior to the start of the meeting. *Democratic Services kindly requests advance notice from anyone wishing to film, record or take photographs during open meetings so that suitable provision can be made.*

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If English is not your first language and you would like a translation of this document into any other language, please telephone (01482) 393939.

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF LOCAL DETERMINATION PROCEDURE

Representation

1. The Member may be represented or accompanied during the meeting by a solicitor, counsel or, with the permission of the Committee, another person.

Advice

2. The Committee will take procedural advice from the Democratic Services Manager, or a member of his/her Team, at any time during the Hearing and while it is considering the outcome.
3. The Committee may take legal advice from a legal advisor at any time during the Hearing or while it is considering the outcome. The substance of any legal advice given to the Committee should be shared with the Member, the Investigating Officer and the Independent Person if they are present.

Introductions

4. After all parties have been formally introduced; the Chairman will explain how the Committee is going to run the hearing.

Preliminary Procedural Issues

5. The Committee will determine any issues or disagreements about how the hearing should continue, which have not been resolved during the pre-hearing process. If the Member is absent it will decide whether or not to proceed.

Stage 1 - Making Findings of Fact

6. The Committee will then consider whether or not there are any significant disagreements about the facts contained in the Investigating Officer's report.
 - If there are no disagreements the Sub-Committee will proceed to the next stage of the hearing (item 21 - Did the Member fail to follow the Code).
 - If there are disagreements which have been notified in advance the Sub-Committee will proceed to item 7.
 - If the Member wishes to disagree with any fact in the Investigating Officer's report but has not given notice prior to the hearing he/she must give good reasons for not doing so. After considering the Member's explanation the Committee will determine whether to:
 - a) continue with the Hearing, relying on the information and findings of fact as set out in the Investigating Officer's report (proceed to item 21);
 - b) allow representations to be made as though those representations had been notified in advance (proceed to item 7); or
 - c) postpone the hearing for appropriate witnesses to be present.

7. The Investigating Officer to make any necessary representations to support the relevant findings of fact in the report and may call witnesses to give evidence (with the Committee's permission).
8. The Member may ask questions of the Investigating Officer and any witness called by them or challenge the evidence put forward by the Member or their witnesses.
9. The Independent Person may ask questions of the Investigating Officer or any of their witnesses.
10. Members of the Committee may ask questions of any party.
11. The Member to make representations to support their version of the facts and, with the permission of the Committee, may call any necessary witnesses to give evidence as to the facts.
12. The Investigating Officer may ask questions of the Member and any witnesses called by them or challenge the evidence put forward by the Member or their witnesses.
13. The Independent Person may ask questions of the Member or any of their witnesses.
14. The Committee may ask questions of any party.
15. The Independent Person to make any representations on the facts.
16. The Investigating Officer may ask questions of the Independent Person.
17. The Member may ask questions of the Independent Person.
18. The Committee may ask questions of any party.
19. The Committee will consider the representations and evidence in private.
20. The Chairman will announce the Committee's findings of fact in the presence of all parties.

Stage 2 - Did the Member Fail to Follow the Code?

21. The Member to make representations as to whether or not there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct.
22. The Investigating Officer to make any representations as to whether or not there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct.
23. The Independent Person to make any representations to whether or not there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct.
24. The Committee may question any party.
25. The Committee will consider the representations in private.
26. The Chairman will announce the Committee's decision as to whether or not the Member has failed to follow the Code of Conduct in the presence of all parties.

Stage 3 - If the Member has Not Failed to follow the Code of Conduct

27. The Committee to consider whether it should make any recommendations to the appropriate Authority.

Stage 3 - If the Member has Failed to follow the Code of Conduct

28. Representations from the Investigating Officer as to whether or not any recommendations should be made to the appropriate Authority concerning:
 - (a) sanctions, and
 - (b) generally with a view to promoting high standards of conduct amongst Members.
29. Representations from the Member as to whether or not any recommendations should be made to the appropriate Authority concerning:
 - (a) sanctions, and
 - (b) generally with a view to promoting high standards of conduct amongst Members.
30. Representations from the Independent Person as to whether or not any recommendations should be made to the appropriate Authority concerning:
 - (a) sanctions, and
 - (b) generally with a view to promoting high standards of conduct amongst Members.
31. The Committee may ask questions of the Investigating Officer, Member and Independent Person.
32. The Committee will consider the representations in private.
33. The Chairman will announce the Committee's decision in the presence of all the parties.

Written Decision

34. A full written decision will be produced within two weeks of the Hearing and will be provided to the Member, the complainant and the Clerk to the appropriate Town/Parish Council, if applicable.

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: Standards Committee (Hearing)
14 December 2016

WARDS: Minster and Woodmansey

**Local Investigation of Complaints -
LA/SASC/138/139/140/141/142(a)-(w) and 144/
Peacock/East Riding of Yorkshire/Beverley
Councillor Dominic Peacock -
East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council**

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

A. Executive Summary

The following complaints were referred to the Monitoring Officer for local investigation by the Standards Committee Assessment Sub-Committee on 19 July 2016:-

<u>Case No</u>	<u>Name of Person Making the Complaint</u>	<u>Name of Person Allegation is Against</u>	<u>Name of Relevant Authority</u>
LA/SASC/138/ 139/140/141/ 142(a)-(w)/144/ Peacock/ East Riding of Yorkshire/ Beverley	Various	Councillor Dominic Peacock	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Beverley Town Council

The Monitoring Officer appointed Nicholas King, Senior Legal Officer, to undertake the investigation, which has now been completed. A copy of the Monitoring Officer's report is attached as Appendix A.

The Monitoring Officer considers that breaches of paragraphs 2(1) and 2(3) of the Codes of Conduct as adopted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council have been established.

Councillor Peacock has not provided a response to the final report.

The Committee is now asked to conduct a hearing into the complaint in accordance with the procedures circulated with the agenda.

B. Corporate Priorities 2011-2015

Reducing costs, raising performance.

1. Background

1.1 A complaint about the conduct of Councillor Dominic Peacock of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council was referred to the Monitoring Officer, Mathew Buckley, for local investigation. Under Section 82A of the Local Government Act 2000, Nicholas King, Senior Legal Officer, was appointed to investigate.

1.2 The following is a brief summary of the complaint:-

Complaint LA/SASC/138 concerned a post on a social media page (Facebook page for Vote Leave Beverley and Holderness, Haltemprice & Howden) by Councillor Peacock in which he wrote, "I've just donated the steam off my piss". This comment was posted in relation to the Memorial Fund set up in memory of the late Jo Cox MP. Councillor Peacock later the same day withdrew the post and posted in its place the comment "I've deleted my offensive comment I shouldn't have put it on in the first place - I won't make excuses".

In addition the complaint also referred to a further comment by Councillor Peacock, which stated (in response to other comments) "...I am sick and tired of this woman's death being used against the brexit cause anyway if it gets a frown off the vile Kate Omara [sic] I must be doing something right...". The complaint also made reference to Councillor Peacock - on the same Facebook page - asking if the break in campaigning out of respect for Jo Cox MP will "mess up the referendum" and his allegedly calling women "silly cows".

Complaints LA/SASC/139 - 142(a)-(w) and complaint LA/SASC/144 refer to the same post on social media as set out above in relation to the Memorial Fund.

1.3 The Monitoring Officer has now concluded the investigation and considers that there is a case to answer. A copy of the Monitoring Officer's report is attached as Appendix A. Councillor Peacock has not provided a response to the final report.

1.4 It is now for the Committee to consider the complaint and determine whether Councillor Peacock has contravened the Codes of Conduct adopted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council.

1.5 The Monitoring Officer's Findings of Fact are outlined in Paragraph 7.1 of the attached report. Councillor Peacock has neither agreed nor disagreed with the Findings of Fact set out in Paragraph 7.1.

1.6 The following is a summary of the issues considered by the Monitoring Officer:-

- (a) Did Councillor Peacock make the comments as set out above on social media?
- (b) Did the making of those comments constitute a failure to treat with respect and/or could the making of the comments reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute?

2 Pre Hearing Process

- 2.1 The Committee, consisting of Councillors Margaret Chadwick (to Chair), Josie Head and Phil Davison (East Riding of Yorkshire Council Members), Mrs Elma Hunter (Parish Council Representative) and Mrs Margaret Stevenson (independent Member), will meet on Wednesday, 14 December 2016 at County Hall, Beverley to consider the matter. The meeting will be clerked by Julie Lidster, Senior Committee Manager.
- 2.2 Councillor Peacock and the Monitoring Officer were asked to produce a range of information as part of the Pre-Hearing Process to assist the conduct of the hearing. This included asking Councillor Peacock if he would be attending the Hearing, if he disagreed with any of the Findings of Fact set out in the Monitoring Officer's report, if he wished to submit any additional evidence, or if he wished to call any witnesses.
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer will be represented by Nicholas King, Senior Legal Officer. Councillor Peacock has not indicated whether he will be in attendance at the meeting and/or wishes to be represented.
- 2.4 Councillor Peacock has not responded to the final report. Councillor Peacock has also not confirmed whether or not he agrees with the Findings of Fact or whether he wishes to submit any additional evidence.
- 2.5 As far as witnesses are concerned should any of the parties wish to call any they may do so but the Committee may limit the number called if it believes it is unreasonable. The Monitoring Officer does not wish to call witnesses. Councillor Peacock has not indicated whether, if in attendance, he would wish to call witnesses.
- 2.6 As Councillor Peacock has not indicated whether he will be in attendance at the Hearing, the Standards Committee may need to consider whether or not it will make a determination in the Member's absence, or whether to adjourn the Hearing to another date.

Diane Hindhaugh
Democratic Services Manager

Contact Officer

Diane Hindhaugh
Democratic Services Manager
01482 393202

Background Papers

The Monitoring Officer's final report dated 31 October 2016, as attached at Appendix A.

Agenda Item No

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: Standards Committee (Hearing)
14 December 2016

WARDS: Minster and Woodmansey

**Local Investigation of Complaints:-
LA/SASC/138/139/140/141/142(a)-(w) and 144/
Peacock/East Riding of Yorkshire/Beverley
Councillor Dominic Peacock -
East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council
FINAL REPORT**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

A. Executive Summary

The following complaints were referred to the Monitoring Officer for local investigation by the Standards Committee Assessment Sub-Committee at its meeting on 19 July 2016:-

<u>Case No</u>	<u>Name of Person Making the Complaint</u>	<u>Name of Person Allegation is Against</u>	<u>Name of Relevant Authority</u>
LA/SASC/138/ 139/140/141/ 142(a)-(w)/144/ Peacock/ East Riding of Yorkshire/ Beverley	Various	Councillor Dominic Peacock	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Beverley Town Council

Complaint LA/SASC/138 concerned a post on a social media page (Facebook page for Vote Leave Beverley and Holderness, Haltemprice & Howden) by Councillor Peacock in which he wrote, "I've just donated the steam off my piss". This comment was posted in relation to the memorial fund set up in memory of the late Jo Cox MP. Councillor Peacock later the same day withdrew the post and posted in its place the comment "I've deleted my offensive comment I shouldn't have put it on in the first place - I won't make excuses".

In addition the complaint also referred to a further comment by Councillor Peacock, which stated (in response to other comments) "...I am sick and tired of this woman's death being used against the brexit cause anyway if it gets a frown off the vile Kate Omara [sic] I must be doing something right...". The complaint also made reference to Councillor Peacock - on the same Facebook page - asking if the break in campaigning out of respect for Jo Cox MP will "mess up the referendum" and his allegedly calling women "silly cows".

Complaints LA/SASC/139 - 142(a)-(w) refer to the same post on social media as set out above in relation to the memorial fund.

Complaint LA/SASC/144 refers to the same post on social media as set out above in relation to the memorial fund.

An investigation has been carried out to establish whether the complaints made establish a breach of paragraph(s) 2(1) and 2(3) of the Codes of Conduct as adopted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council.

B. **Corporate Priorities 2016-21**

Reducing costs, raising performance

C. **Recommendation**

That, as potential breaches of paragraph 2(1) and 2(3) of the Code of Conducts adopted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Beverley Town Council have been established, the matter should be referred for a hearing.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 In accordance with arrangements made under Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011, the complaint was referred to the Monitoring Officer of East Riding of Yorkshire Council for local investigation. Nicholas James King, Senior Legal Officer, was appointed to investigate.

2. **Code of Conduct**

- 2.1 In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, at its meeting on 25 July 2012 East Riding of Yorkshire Council adopted a Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, at its meeting on 19 June 2012 Beverley Town Council adopted the version of the Code of Conduct as adopted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 4 April 2012.
- 2.3 The relevant sections of the Codes of Conduct in this case are paragraphs 2(1) and 2(3).

Paragraph 2(1) states:-

You must treat others with respect

Paragraph 2(3) states:-

You must not conduct yourself in a manner that could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

3. **The Complaint**

3.1 The complaint focused on the content of a social media post attributed to Councillor Peacock and the associated secondary comments. These comments (including the original post) were all made on a political Facebook page - Vote Leave Beverley and Holderness, Haltemprice & Howden.

4. **Information obtained from Councillor Peacock**

4.1 A letter was sent to Councillor Peacock by the investigating officer on 22 July 2016 enclosing a copy of the complaints made. Within the letter, Councillor Peacock was asked to comment on the complaints by 5 August 2016. In particular he was asked to confirm whether:-

1. Did you make the comments that have been attributed to you?
2. If you did make those comments, why was that?

4.2 Councillor Peacock failed to respond to this letter.

5. **Other Relevant Information Obtained**

5.1 No other information was obtained.

6. **Information obtained from the Complainant**

6.1 As part of the investigation it was not necessary to interview any of the complainants. The content of their complaints was sufficient. Below are extracts from the email complaints received:-

Complaint LA/SASC/138 - states:

"...some of his [Cllr Peacock] comments are quite frankly appalling, asking if a break in campaigning out of respect for Jo Cox MP will mess up the referendum and calling women 'silly cons' ... pretty repugnant behaviour..."

Complaint LA/SASC/139 - states:

"...This comment is a disgrace and reflects very badly on your whole party and on ERYC members generally..."

Complaint LA/SASC/140 - states:

"...I found this statement disgusting and abhorrent in nature, and what makes it worse is the fact it was posted by an elected member of your party..."

Complaint LA/SASC/141 - states:

“...Is this how local Councillors should be behaving on a public forum webpage? It is extremely disrespectful, outrageous and distressing...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(b) - states:

As it is now widely publicised he [Councillor Peacock] made a very insulting and rude comment about murdered Jo Cox MP regarding making a, shall we say, donation.

As a constituent I would like to demand that he should be investigated...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(c) - states:

“I have just seen a screenshot of a post by Councillor Dominic Peacock with a desperately offensive comment above a photograph of Jo Cox MP.

I write to ask you take action on his behaviour which is vile and extremely distressing...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(d) - states:

“...Dominic Peacock has posted a shocking and disrespectful comment on social media, pertaining to the trust fund appeal that has been set up in memory of the murdered MP Jo Cox...the lack of moral judgement...along with a complete disregard for public feeling that such an offensive action belies, would strongly suggest to me that he is unfit to hold any public office...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(e) - states:

“...Mr Peacock’s comment is incredibly disrespectful to the family and friends who are still grieving a woman who is very recently deceased...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(f) - states:

“...I wish to extend my complete dissatisfaction with the wholly inappropriate and shocking words used.

There really is no place for someone like this...in public office”.

Complaint LA/SASC/142(g) - states:

“...I am complaining about the awful comment...on social media...it does not matter what political beliefs he has, this poor woman lost her life and two little children lost their mother. To make such a comment is unforgivable...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(j) - states:

“...Dominic Peacock has posted an absolutely foul and disgusting post on social media regarding Jo Cox...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(k) - states:

“...I demand that Councillor Peacock be suspended with immediate effect for bringing the office of Councillor and Beverley Town into disrepute...”

I am a Beverley resident and am absolutely disgusted...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(l) - states:

“...Councillor Peacock’s comments were extremely unpleasant. I’m also embarrassed that our ward is in the national news for something so horrible and that this man, who represents us all, has brought us shame...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(n) - states:

“...Although I am not resident in East Riding I am however a reader of newspapers and social media and after reading comments made by one of your councillors...I felt the need to register my disgust.

For a man holding council office to make comments like that is a bad reflection on the image of your council...For the family of the late Jo Cox to read his comment must be like a dagger to their hearts especially as they are still grieving...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(o) - states:

“...Cllr Peacock’s vile comments on Facebook...are sickening and insulting. He has displayed such a dreadful lack of respect, empathy, dignity and appropriateness...Disgusting is a total understatement...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(p) - states:

“...I find the comment made by Councillor Peacock on Facebook relating to the recent death of MP Jo Cox profoundly disgusting...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(q) - states:

“...The odious comment councillor Peacock placed on the Vote Leave Facebook page about Jo Cox MP requires formally investigating...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(r) - states:

“...It is absolutely disgraceful that a man in public office can make these comments...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(s) - states:

“...The behaviour of this councillor over his tweet re Jo Cox was appalling. His actions make him totally unworthy to be a councillor”.

Complaint LA/SASC/142(u) - states:

“...Mr Peacock’s comment is incredibly disrespectful to the family and friends who are still grieving a woman who is very recently deceased...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(v) - states:

“...It was proposed and seconded that Beverley Town Council deplore the actions of Cllr Dominic Peacock in relation to his social media comment and refer the whole case to Standards Committee at East Yorkshire Council...Members feel that Cllr Peacock has brought Beverley Town Council into disrepute...”

Complaint LA/SASC/142(w) - states:

“...I am appalled by the statement he made on his Facebook page about murdered MP Jo Cox...Councillor Peacock has not only disgraced himself, but he has also tarnished the reputation of the Council and embarrassed the town...”

7 Findings of Fact

7.1 The investigating officer’s findings in relation to the complaint are as follows:-

- (a) Councillor Peacock is a Member of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and a Member of Beverley Town Council.
- (b) Councillor Peacock made the comment attributed to him in relation to the late Jo Cox MP.
- (c) This comment was made on a Facebook page created with regards the Brexit campaign.

8. Reasoning

8.1 Councillor Peacock has not denied making the comments attributed to him, nor has he denied that they were made in his official capacity. The comment was made in the name ‘Dominic Peacock’ without reference to his status as a Councillor. However, the comment was posted on a site campaigning in the EU Referendum and therefore it is considered that the comment made by Councillor Peacock was made in his official capacity as a Councillor campaigning for a particular outcome in the EU Referendum.

8.2 It is clear that the comments made by Councillor Peacock were deeply offensive and the public reaction including the number of complaints reflects this. The reason for the initial comment is unknown as Councillor Peacock has failed to respond to the allegation. The nearest thing we have to an explanation is the remark that Councillor Peacock posted - ‘I am sick and tired of this woman’s death being used against the brexit cause’. If this is the reason that the comment was made it does not justify the remarks made and the remark is a further offensive comment referring as it does to the late MP as ‘...this woman...’.

- 8.3 It is unclear why Councillor Peacock made the comments that he did. However, given the nature of the remarks and the context within which they were made any reason is irrelevant. The remarks cannot be justified. The murder of Jo Cox was a shocking event. The murder of a Member of Parliament and mother of two young children going about her official duties was deeply upsetting to people throughout the country. The memorial fund set up in her honour by friends of the late MP raised £1m within three days of being created. A reflection of the esteem felt for the murdered MP. The comments made by Councillor Peacock trivialised the murder of Jo Cox and the memorial fund set up in her memory. The remarks were an insult to the memory of a young woman who died in shocking circumstances and an insult to those who set up and donated to the memorial fund. The comments made in relation to Kate O'Mara as vile and to refer to women generally as 'silly cows' demonstrates a dismissive and disrespectful attitude to an individual and women in general.
- 8.4 In making the remarks Councillor Peacock failed to have any regard for the feelings of the family and friends of Jo Cox MP, and failed to have regard for the feelings of members of the public who would read his comment. It is clear that in making the remarks Councillor Peacock failed to treat others with respect and conducted himself in a manner that could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute.

9. **Comments from Councillor Peacock on the Draft Report**

- 9.1 A copy of the draft report was sent to Councillor Peacock on 22 September 2016 with a deadline for response of 12 noon on 3 October 2016.
- 9.2 Councillor Peacock failed to comment.

10. **Comments from Complainant on the Draft Report**

- 10.1 A copy of the draft report was sent to all complainants on 22 September 2016 by email with a deadline for response of 12 noon on 3 October 2016.
- 10.2 Complainant LA/SASC/144 queried why no synopsis of his complaint was included within the draft report. He also asked the investigating officer to confirm the exact number of complainants along with the existence or not of complaint LA/SASC/143. The investigating officer declined to respond to these comments.
- 10.3 Complainant LA/SASC/142(g) commented saying that he *“fully endorse the findings of your report and totally commend them in the hope that formal action is the result leading to his sanction.”*
- 10.4 Complaint LA/SASC/142(v) thanked the investigating officer for the report.

11. Independent Person Comments

11.1 A copy of the draft report was sent to the Council's Independent Person, Ms Amanda Thomlinson, for comment on 12 October 2016.

11.2 In her response the Council's Independent Person commented as follows:-

“ ...

Councillor Peacock posted what can only be construed as a highly offensive comment on social media...His choice of phrase was base and vulgar and posted as a comment about the memorial fund for the recently murdered Jo Cox MP. There is no justification for such poor taste and insensitivity to the family and friends of Jo Cox. Councillor Peacock displayed a complete lack of respect in a period of mourning.

...

It seems that Councillor Peacock considered no thought at all when posting his comment. He then went on to make disparaging remarks that were sexist in tone. He has shown a deplorable lack of judgment. In my opinion, Councillor Peacock has made it very difficult for anyone to hold much respect for him and he has manifestly brought his office into disrepute. I am in agreement with the investigating officer that both paragraphs 2(1) and 2(3) of the Code of Conduct have been breached.”

12. Conclusion

12.1 In conclusion, it is considered that breaches of the Code of Conduct have been disclosed with regard to the allegations contained in paragraphs 3.1 above.

Mathew Buckley
Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer

Nicholas King, Solicitor
Senior Legal Officer
01482 393132

Background Papers

File 75271