

# **DECISION NOTICE**

## **FINDINGS;**

### **BREACH OF THE MEMBERS CODE**

### **OF CONDUCT**

#### **Complaint**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 the Audit and Standards Sub Committee Hearing Panel of this Council considered the report of the Investigating Officer in relation to a complaint into the alleged conduct of Councillor Alan Hosker, a Member of Burnley Borough Council. We have set out a general summary of the complaint below:

It was alleged that Councillor Alan Hosker had breached the Code of Conduct for Members by referring to Burnley's MP in a derogatory manner by being misogynistic on his County and Borough Councillor Facebook page, and had breached respect, caused disrepute, and had breached the Leadership Principle- which requires Members to promote and support the General Principles of the Code of Conduct by leadership and by example and by acting in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

The cross-party Hearing Panel was chaired by Councillor Mark Payne.

Councillor Alan Hosker was invited to the Hearing but declined to attend.

#### **Decision**

The Hearing Panel takes all complaints about Councillors very seriously and carefully considers all matters in accordance with its published criteria.

The Hearing Panel found that Councillor Alan Hosker had breached the Council's Code of Conduct for Members in relation to Leadership. Members should promote and support General Principles of the Code of Conduct by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence. Councillor Alan Hosker had behaved in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as breaching this Leadership Principle.

## **Reasons for decision**

The Hearing Panel carefully considered the evidence set out in the Investigating Officer's report and the representations made by the Investigating Officer.

Before reaching its decision the Hearing Panel took into account and had regard to the views of the Independent Person and concluded that:

- The action by Councillor Alan Hosker on his County and Borough Councillor Facebook page in liking the language referred to in the report was inappropriate
- The management by Councillor Alan Hosker of his County and Borough Councillor Facebook page was inadequate

## **Sanctions**

Before considering the action to be taken, the Hearing Panel took into account and had regard to the views of the Independent Person.

The Hearing Panel resolved the following;

The Panel will publish its findings in respect of Councillor Alan Hosker's conduct.

The Panel will report its findings to the Council for information.