

COMPLAINTS UNDER COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL



DATE	28/09/2022
PORTFOLIO	None
REPORT AUTHOR	Carol Eddleston
TEL NO	01282 477258
EMAIL	ceddleston@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. To report the decision of the Audit and Standards Committee Standards Hearing Panel (the Hearing Panel) on 22nd August 2022 in relation to the conduct of Councillor Phil Chamberlain and Councillor Jeff Sumner.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Council notes the decision of the Hearing Panel on 22nd August 2022.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. One of the outcomes from the 22nd August 2022 Hearing Panel, was to report the findings to Full Council.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. On 22nd August 2022 the Hearing Panel considered the report of the Investigating Officer in relation to complaints into the alleged conduct of Councillor Phil Chamberlain and Councillor Jeff Sumner, members of Burnley Borough Council, during a visit by both Councillors to the home of a local resident who had been in recent contact with them about different matters of Council business.
5. Following a full hearing the Hearing Panel agreed with the Investigating Officer that Councillor Phil Chamberlain had breached the Code of Conduct for Members in that he had failed to treat others with respect (section 3.1) and had conducted himself in a way that could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office and the authority into disrepute (section 5), as set out on the attached Minutes (including the Decision Notice) of the Audit and Standards Committee Hearing Panel of 22nd August 2022 (Appendix 1).
6. The Hearing Panel also agreed with the Investigating Officer that Councillor Jeff Sumner had breached the Code of Conduct for Members in that he had failed to treat others with respect (section 3.1) and had conducted himself in a way that could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office and the authority into disrepute (section 5), as set out on

the attached Minutes (including the Decision Notice) of the Audit and Standards Committee Standards Hearing Panel of 22nd August 2022 (Appendix 1).

7. The Hearing Panel recommended the following;
- (i) That the findings of the Panel be published;
 - (ii) That the findings of the Panel be reported to the Full Council;
 - (iii) That Councillor Chamberlain and Councillor Sumner apologise in writing to the witness and the witness' family;
 - (iv) That Councillor Chamberlain and Sumner apologise in writing to all members of the Council, and
 - (v) That Councillors Chamberlain and Sumner be recommended to agree to mediation. Should either member fail to agree to this, the Monitoring Officer is recommended to arrange conflict resolution training for both members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

8. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

10. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION

**PLEASE CONTACT: Carol Eddleston
01282 477258**