

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18 MARCH 2014

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES) & DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER

A.1 OUTCOME OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR DANNY MAYZES

(Report prepared by Martyn Knappett)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update the Standards Committee on the outcome of the complaint made against Councillor Danny Mayzes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 12th December 2013, the Standards Committee resolved that the Complaint made against Councillor Danny Mayzes by the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer merited further investigation. The complaint alleged that the Tweet sent by Councillor Danny Mayzes on 8th October 2013 was inappropriate and unacceptable and therefore in breach of the Code of Conduct. It was considered that the Principles of Selflessness and Leadership had been compromised by the Councillors actions.

Due to the conflict of interest with the Monitoring Officer and in accordance with the framework agreed at Council in November 2013, the investigation was outsourced and undertaken by Mr Timothy Earl, Head of Suffolk Legal at Suffolk County Council. The Investigation Officer concluded that in his view there was clear evidence of a failure to comply with the previous Code of Conduct, as Councillor Danny Mayzes had failed to conduct himself in a way that demonstrated Leadership in that he failed to set a good example for others. There was no evidence however that the Code was breached in terms of the principle of Selflessness.

In accordance with paragraph 7.1.1 of the Complaints Procedure, the Deputy Monitoring Officer considered that it was possible that the matter could reasonably be resolved without the need for a hearing. In particular, the Deputy Monitoring Officer consulted with all the parties concerned and in this instance, it was considered that upon Councillor Mayzes's accepting the finding that his conduct was unacceptable and in breach of the Members' Code of Conduct and a written apology being circulated to all Councillors, a satisfactory and fair resolution had been reached.

In accordance with the procedures, the outcome of any informal resolution is reported to the Standards Committee for information.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standards Committee note the informal resolution.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Decision Notice of the Deputy Monitoring Officer.
- Appendix 2 – Letter of Apology circulated by Councillor Danny Mayzes