

Written Response to Investigating Officer's Report

I have received a copy of the report of the Investigating Officer, Matt Lewin, dated 30 August 2018.

In line with the Complaints procedure (para 7.5) I have been asked to provide my written response to the report in order to identify what is likely to be agreed and what it likely to be in contention at the ethics committee hearing.

The investigation Officer has found that I have breached the Code of Conduct and I have added my comments below to each paragraph of the code where he has found a breach.

- a) Paragraph 2 (f) – Honesty - I will declare any private interests relating to my public duties and take steps to resolve any conflict arising in a way that protects the public interests.

Response – I do not agree that I have breached this paragraph of the Code. There was no deliberate attempt by me not to register my interests. There was no gain for me and this is confirmed by the investigating officer at para 40 of his report. I was a new Councillor and the rules of DPI are complicated and confusing, I have a number of business interests and on some occasions I was registering my interests but in the wrong box on the form. Once I was told what I needed to do I did it and all my interests were up to date before this investigation.

- b) Paragraph 3 (h) – Behave in accordance with all my legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within the Councils' policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Council's resources.

Response – I agree that I have technically breached this paragraph of the Code as I should have registered all my DPI's 28 days after my election. But it was confusing given my various interests, I think I did prioritise this but did not realise the complexity.

- c) 5.1 (a) – Register and where appropriate, disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests that I am obliged to declare under the Localism Act and associated regulations.

Response – I agree that I have technically breached this paragraph of the Code as I should have registered all my DPI's 28 days after my election. But it was confusing given my various interests, I think I did prioritise this but did not realise the complexity.

- d) 3 (j) – Always treat people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside.

Response – I do not agree that I have breached this paragraph of the Code my comments need to be taken in context of the conversation. I did not mean any disrespect I felt that the complaint was unjustified and Councillor Mayer was not treating me with respect, he has cost the Council time and money when I had resolved the matter and my register was up to date.

Signed



Dated.....



Councillor Rois Ali