

## **FACT FINDING SUMMARY**

### **Complaint from a Parish Councillor of Birstall Parish Council that a Member of the Council failed to observe the Member Code of Conduct.**

#### **Complaint Ref: MC03 24/25**

A complaint was submitted by a Parish Councillor of Birstall Parish Council ('the complainant') that a Member of the Parish Council ('the subject Member') failed to observe the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct.

The complainant alleges that the subject Member has failed to treat the complainant with respect, by ignoring the complainant in meetings and acting in such a way as to belittle the complainant. The complainant also alleges that the subject Member has accused the complainant of lying in an open meeting, therefore failing to treat the complainant with respect.

The complainant also alleges that the subject Member is aggressive and disrespectful to staff of Birstall Parish Council, and that the subject Member prevents others from accessing information they are entitled to see, thus interfering with impacting decision making.

Having considered the complaint and the subject Member's response, the Deputy Monitoring Officer concluded that there were differing versions of the relevant events being put forward by the complainant and the subject Member, and therefore the complaint should be referred for further investigation, particularly to consider issues arising in relation to the requirements set out in the following sections of the Member Code of Conduct:

#### General Conduct

##### 1. Respect

As a member:

1.1 I will treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I will treat council officers, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the council with respect and respect the role they play.

##### 4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a member:

4.3 I will not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

#### **Views of the Independent Person**

An Independent Person Mark Shaw was consulted and their considered opinion was that due, to the nature of some of the allegations made within the complaint, the Deputy Monitoring Officer's conclusion that the complaint warranted further investigation was correct.

**Nicola Ford**

**Deputy Monitoring Officer**

**27.11.2024**