

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CONSIDERATION AND HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND ESSEX FIRE AUTHORITY JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON 15 DECEMBER 2011 AT 2:00 PM**

**Membership**

- \* Mr A French (Independent Chairman)
- \* Councillor J W Pike
- \* Councillor C Pond

\* Present

The following officers were present in support throughout the meetings:

Terry Osborne  
Ann Coldicott

Monitoring Officer  
Governance Officer

**4. Apologies and Substitutions**

None.

**5. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**6. Membership**

That the Membership of the Sub-Committee as set out above be noted.

**7. Minutes**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2011 be noted.

**8. Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved:**

That the public (including the press) should not be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it was in the public's interest that this matter should be considered in public.

However, the Sub-Committee agreed that pages 14 to 22 of the agenda papers should remain as exempt information.

**9. Report of an Investigation Under the Code of Conduct**

The Sub-Committee considered report SC/002/11 by the Monitoring Officer regarding an allegation of misconduct made against Essex County Councillor Brian Wood. The Sub-Committee were asked to determine whether there had

been a breach of the Essex Member Code of Conduct and, if so, to determine what sanction, if any, should be given.

The Sub-Committee noted the pre-hearing summary.

The Sub-Committee did not dispute any of the findings of fact and agreed that County Councillor Brian Wood had breached Paragraph 3(1) of the Code of Conduct in that he had failed to treat Mr Pharro with respect after a meeting of the Canvey Island East Neighbourhood Meeting on 4 November 2010 by speaking inappropriately.

In accordance with the agreed Procedure the Sub-Committee then considered what sanction if any should be given to Councillor Wood. The Sub-Committee took into consideration that Councillor Wood had already sent a letter of apology to Mr Pharro.

**Resolved:**

1. That County Councillor Brian Wood had breached Paragraph 3(1) of the Code of Conduct in that he had failed to treat Mr Pharro with respect after a meeting of the Canvey Island East Neighbourhood Meeting on 4 November 2010 by speaking inappropriately, be agreed; and
2. That a letter be sent to Councillor Wood conveying the Sub-Committee's disappointment concerning his behaviour and requesting that he ensure that his language is more temperate in future

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2:45 pm.

Chairman