

Appendix C

From: Norman Hodson

Sent: 14 August 2018 13:40

To: Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy & Transparency; Paul Turner, Director, Legal & Assurance

Subject: Re: Report CW Standards investigation 2018.pdf

Dear Joanna,

As requested, I have reviewed your report relating to the alleged breach of Essex County Council's code of conduct made by Cllr Hoy against Cllr Weston, my comments follow...

It can be clearly seen that Cllr Hoy & Cllr Weston operate in different political spectrums. However, whilst this might have motivated the complaint it does not appear to have anything specifically to do with the complaint.

It is clear that Cllr Weston booked Hullbridge Library for an extra session ahead of the upcoming District Council Elections. As she normally holds her surgeries together with Cllr Marriott it seems quite logical that the two councillors would again hold a joint surgery. It may however have been inappropriate to include notice of the surgery in Cllr Marriott's election material. I presume this is covered by the appropriate legislation.

In advertising & holding this surgery I would agree that Cllr Marriott may well have been placed at an election advantage. And given that Cllr Weston booked this session, then I agree that Cllr Weston may have breached Essex County Council's code of conduct. It would seem appropriate therefore that the complaint should be referred to the Standards Committee and / or investigated further.

Please feel free to call me should you wish to discuss.

Norman Hodson
Independent Person