



# Basingstoke and Deane

## **BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL** **DECISION NOTICE**

### **DECISION NOTICE:**

**Reference: 043946**

**Complainant: Councillor Tristan Robinson**

**Subject Member: Councillor Paul Harvey**

On 16 January 2018, the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Independent Standards Assessor considered a complaint from Councillor Tristan Robinson concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Paul Harvey, a member of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

A general summary of the complaint is set out below:

On 31 October 2017 a social media post was made by the complainant on Twitter pertaining to a matter not relating to council business.

On 1 November 2017 a reply was sent by the twitter account 'Basingstoke Labour Councillors'. The reply made reference to the complainant's current employer.

Further follow up tweets were provided in support of the complaint.

### **Decision**

In accordance with the Arrangements, the Deputy Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Standards Assessor, determined the further sub paragraph of the Arrangements is applicable:

4.3 i) the complaint is relatively minor or tit for tat

It was further determined that the complaint should be **Dismissed**

**Reasons for decision**


The council's Deputy Monitoring Officer met with an Independent Standards Assessor, Liz Morris, on 16 December 2017 and consulted upon the complaint. The complaint was considered against the council's Code of Conduct and the arrangements for dealing with complaints against councillors. Pursuant to paragraph 4.3 of the arrangements the Deputy Monitoring Officer determined the complaint should be dismissed for the following reasons:

1. The tweets were sent from a Basingstoke Labour Group Twitter account. There is no evidence that the tweets were sent by the subject member.
2. There has been no breach of confidentiality as information regarding the complainant's employer is in the public domain.
3. The twitter account used to send the tweets does not belong to the council.
4. An apology was tweeted following the initial tweet.

This decision notice is sent to the person or persons making the allegation, the Member against whom the allegation was made

**Right of Appeal**

There is no right of Appeal

Signed ..... 

Date ..... 23 January 2018

**Deputy Monitoring Officer**

## **Additional Help**

If you need additional support in relation to this or future contact with us, please let us know as soon as possible. If you have difficulty reading this notice we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you, in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2000.

We can also help if English is not your first language.

## **Access to the complaints process**

Certain groups of customers may find it more difficult to make a complaint for example due to English not being their first language, sight impairment etc. It is our duty to assist the complainant in gaining access to the complaints procedure but we must not make the complaint for them or misrepresent their complaint. The Council do not insist that a complaint is made in writing, particularly where this would hinder an individual in making their complaint.

The following services are available to assist customers in making their complaint.

Translation  
Interpreting  
Braille/Large Print  
Minicom  
Text  
Online form

