



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Hearing Review Panel

Monday, 11 May 2026

Report of Graham Kitchen, Monitoring
Officer

Councillor Code of Conduct Hearing

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

This report provides the Hearing Review Panel with information relating to a complaint by Councillors Ashley Baxter and Phil Dilks (the 'Complainants') against Councillor Charmaine Morgan (the 'Subject Member'), which is the subject of a Hearing, in accordance with the Council's procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors.

Recommendations

That the Hearing Review Panel:

- 1. Determine whether a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct has occurred; and**
- 2. If it is found that a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct has occurred to determine appropriate sanctions.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No – however, there are several redactions within Appendix B. These redactions have been made in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, under Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 1, on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	N/A

1. Background to the Report

- 1.1 The Council has adopted both a Councillor Code of Conduct and a procedure for dealing with alleged breaches of that code of conduct. These are set out in the Council's Constitution at Part 5 (Codes and Protocols).
- 1.2 Any complaint received by the Council regarding the conduct of its Councillors is dealt with in accordance with the stated procedure.
- 1.3 The complaint scheduled for consideration at this Hearing was submitted by the Complainants against the Subject Member.
- 1.4 In accordance with the Council's procedure, the complaint was assessed and then referred for formal investigation.
- 1.5 Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP were appointed by the then Interim Monitoring Officer to conduct the formal investigation relating to this complaint.
- 1.6 Having conducted an investigation in line with the prescribed procedure, the Investigating Officer concluded that the Subject Member's conduct constituted a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct.
- 1.7 The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Council's Independent Person, concurred with the findings of the Investigation Report and determined that it would be appropriate to refer the matter to a Hearing, which would be heard by a Hearing Review Panel.

2. Key Considerations

- 2.1 The final report from the Investigating Officer at Anthony Collins LLP is attached to this covering report for the Hearing Review Panel's consideration at **Appendix A**. Neither the Subject Member nor the Complainants raised any objections to the Investigation Report being put in the public domain. Redactions have been applied to aspects of the report that are irrelevant to the matter before the Hearing Review Panel and to protect personal data in accordance with the Council's legal obligations.
- 2.2 The procedure to be followed for this Hearing is outlined in the Council's procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors. This is set out in **Appendix B** of this report.

3. Appendices

- 3.1 Appendix A – Investigating Officer's report
- 3.2 Appendix B – Procedure for Hearing