



Oadby & Wigston

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr Ravendra H Thakor
22 Pennine Close
Oadby
Leicester
LE2 4TB

Please ask for: David Gill

Email: david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Telephone: 0116 257 2626

Ref: Code of Conduct

Date: Friday 22 February 2019

Dear Cllr Thakor,

I write on behalf of the Council in my capacity as Chair of the Determination Sub-Committee that met on Wednesday 20 February 2019 to consider an allegation that you breached the Code of Conduct in sending an email to Ms Veronika Quintyne in September 2018 which contained a number of derogatory and disrespectful comments towards the Chair of Oadby Residents Forum, a number of Liberal Democrat Councillors, and Ms Quintyne herself.

The Sub-Committee (Cllr E R Barr, Cllr R F Eaton and I) unanimously agreed with the view expressed by the Independent Person that your choice of language in this email crossed the line of acceptability. Whilst within a political environment there is legitimate scope for fair comment and criticism of the behaviour of others, the derogatory nature of your comments brought your office, your political party and the Authority into disrepute. The Sub-Committee therefore unanimously agreed that a range of sanctions should be imposed against you, one of those being that you should receive a letter of censure from the Council.

The Sub-Committee's view was that, not for the first time during your time in office, your conduct was unacceptable, unwarranted and entirely unjustified and constituted a clear and serious breach of the Code of Conduct. The Sub-Committee felt strongly that you have repeatedly failed to demonstrate any willingness to improve your conduct, despite having been sanctioned under the Code on two previous occasions.

The Sub-Committee considered that your non-attendance at the hearing and general lack of engagement with the standards process demonstrated a distinct lack of accountability and moral and ethical principles on your part. It remains incumbent on the Council to ensure that such conduct is not tolerated and should be addressed through the strongest possible sanctions. Indeed, the Sub-Committee expressed disappointment that more punitive sanctions were not available under the current standards regime, as it was felt that only the potential for stronger sanctions would be likely to encourage a significant change in your behaviour.

The seriousness of this breach was further compounded by your continued failure to apologise to Cllr Darr and Ms Quintyne at the request of the Monitoring Officer, despite the opportunity this afforded you to resolve the matter swiftly and informally. This demonstrates further evidence of



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your lack of respect towards Officers and your contemptuous attitude towards the Code of Conduct and the Monitoring Officer's role in upholding its integrity.

The Sub-Committee unanimously agreed that given your clear lack of recognition and remorse for the impact that your actions have caused, you should be excluded from Council premises other than Council meeting rooms where your attendance is necessary for attendance at meetings, and your Council iPad entitlement is to be withdrawn. It is my understanding that when Mr Ball, an Officer of the Council, telephoned you immediately after the hearing to inform you that you would no longer be entitled to the supply of a Council iPad you were due to collect, you offered a foul-mouthed response, which again illustrates the lack of respect the Sub-Committee identified you have towards Officers, and further vindicates the choice of sanctions the Sub-Committee agreed to impose.

In addition to the above sanctions, it is recommended that you should not attend any further meetings of Oadby Residents Forum until such time as you have apologised to Councillor Darr and Ms Quintyne, and that your group leader should be informed that in the view of the Sub-Committee, you should be removed once again from Committees. It is a matter for your group leader to determine if this recommendation is accepted.

The Sub-Committee hope that in the event you seek re-election in May 2019 and are successful, your next term of office will show that you have learned from the impact that your actions have had on the Authority, Ms Quintyne and your fellow Members, and you will moderate your future conduct appropriately.

Finally, in accordance with the Committee's wishes, the findings of the Sub-Committee will be published on the Council's website and reported to Full Council on 16 April 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley
Chair of Determination Sub-Committee

Cc:

Councillor E R Barr
Councillor R F Eaton