

EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE

Notice of Determination

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Standards Hearings Sub Committee, at a hearing held on Monday 11th February 2019, determined a complaint made against Councillor Tina Mountain for breach of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Member Code of Conduct.

The complaint referred to a number of allegations where it was claimed Councillor Mountain had ignored requests for a planning application to be called in for determination and did not respond to emails and calls.

The Standards Hearing Sub-Committee, having taken into account the Investigator's report, representations made at the hearing by the Investigating Officer and Councillor Mountain, found Councillor Mountain had breached the Members Code of Conduct. The reason for the finding was because Councillor Mountain failed to explain to the complainant, a member of the public, in accordance with the planning code of conduct and best practice, why a matter would not be "called in" to the Planning Committee". In doing so she had breached the requirement for 'Openness' and para 10 of the Member Code of Conduct.

The Council's arrangements for dealing with Member Code of Conduct breaches, requires the views of the Independent Person to be sought. The Independent Person's views were sought and taken into account by the Standards Hearing Sub Committee in reaching their decision.

Having found the Member in breach, the Sub Committee imposed the following requirements:

- require Councillor Mountain undertake member training in relation to dealing with planning matters and the use of IT within four weeks of 11 February 2019;
- require the Monitoring Officer to refer the matter back to the Standards Committee should the training not be completed within four weeks;
- require Councillor Tina Mountain not to use her personal email address when corresponding on council business.

Mrs A Healy
Monitoring Officer

Dated: 1.3.2019