

## **Decision of the Standards Hearing Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

The Standards Hearing Committee commended the investigator for her diligent investigation.

The Committee unanimously find that Councillor David Whipp breached the Code of Conduct in that he showed disrespect to Councillor Ash Sutcliffe. He caused Councillor A. Sutcliffe distress by walking over to him in an intimidatory way and physically challenging him by waving papers in his face. This action humiliated Councillor A. Sutcliffe and was in clear breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Committee has unanimously decided to take the following action: -

1. Publish its findings in respect of the Councillor's conduct.
2. Report its findings to Council for information.
3. Recommend to Council that Councillor D. Whipp be censured.
4. Recommend that Councillor D. Whipp make an apology to the Council at the next Full Council meeting.
5. Recommend that Councillor D. Whipp make a written apology to Councillor A. Sutcliffe.
6. Instruct the Monitoring Officer to arrange some form of conflict resolution training for Councillor D. Whipp to be undertaken by the end of the municipal year.
7. Recommend that more serious consequences should follow if there are further breaches of the Code of Conduct by Councillor D. Whipp.