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NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Conduct Advisory Panel - Hearing Panel
Date and Time	Wednesday, 9th December, 2020 at 10.00 am
Place	Ashburton Hall, EII Court, Winchester
Enquiries to	members.services@hants.gov.uk

John Coughlan CBE
Chief Executive
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on the County Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the filming protocol available of the County Council's website.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the meeting

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to any individual which should not be disclosed for the reasons set out in the report.

5. COMPLAINT: MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT: DETERMINATION OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL (Pages 3 - 10)

To consider a report of the Monitoring Officer

- a) Annex 1 - Hearing Report (Pages 11 - 44)
- b) Annex 2 - Evidence (Pages 45 - 176)
- c) Annex 3 - Complaint Rebuttal (Pages 177 - 192)
- d) Annex 4 - Supporting Evidence (Pages 193 - 226)
- e) Annex 5 - Email Exchange (Pages 227 - 232)

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to observe the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact members.services@hants.gov.uk for assistance.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Panel:	Conduct Advisory Panel – Hearing Panel
Date:	9 December 2020
Title:	Complaint: Members' Code of Conduct: Determination of a Complaint against a Member of the County Council
Report From:	Head of Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer

Contact name: Barbara Beardwell

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Email: barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk

Reasons Why this Report is Not for Publication

This report is not for publication as it contains exempt information within Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to any individual. Further, it is considered that, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information. While there may be a public interest in disclosing this information, namely that it would identify a Member about whom a complaint has been made, it is felt that, on balance, this is outweighed by other factors in favour of maintaining the exemption, namely that the Member's details should not be revealed.

Purpose of this Report / Introduction

1. By virtue of Part I, Chapter 9 of the Constitution, the Conduct Advisory Panel has responsibility for determination of arrangements for the assessment, investigation and determination of allegations of complaints that a Member or Co-opted Member of the County Council has failed to comply with the County Council's Code of Conduct for Members ('Arrangements'). A link to the Members' Code of Conduct approved by the County Council on 17 July 2014 is attached below:

[The Constitution - Appendix A – Code of Conduct for Members](#)

A link to the Arrangements last updated by the Conduct Advisory Panel on 24 October 2019 is attached below:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/ArrangementsdealingwithMemberComplaints.pdf>

Complaints against Cllr Woodward – Mr Russell Collier and Mr Jason Morris

2. The Hearing Panel is asked to consider and determine under the Arrangements two complaints made against Cllr Woodward by Mr Russell Collier and Mr Jason Morris, alleging breaches by Cllr Woodward of the Members' Code of Conduct. Included as Exhibit SG8 within the evidence bundle attached to the Investigator's report referred to below and contained at Annex 2 are copies of the complaints made by Mr Collier and Mr Morris, together with additional communication received from Mr Collier in which he sets out more detail of his complaint.

Procedure to date under the Arrangements

3. As provided for in the Arrangements, once a complaint has been validated by the Monitoring Officer pursuant to Paragraph 3 of the Arrangements, the complaint is subject to initial assessment by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Conduct Advisory Panel and one of the County Council's Independent Persons, in accordance with Paragraph 4 of the Arrangements. The criteria against which a complaint should be assessed are set out Paragraph 4.4 of the Arrangements. This stage of the process is designed to ascertain if the complaint should be accepted for further consideration at a meeting of an Assessment Panel, which is a panel of Members drawn from the Conduct Advisory Panel. As provided for in the Conduct Arrangements, an Independent Person is invited to attend a meeting of an Assessment Panel, and the views of the Independent Person are to be sought by the Assessment Panel in making any decision.
4. **An Assessment Panel is required to make one of three decisions:**
 - 4.1. to refer the complaint(s) to the Monitoring Officer for investigation; or
 - 4.2. to refer the complaint(s) to the Monitoring Officer for 'other action'; or
 - 4.3. to determine that no further action should be taken in respect of the complaint.

Assessment Panel Meeting 9 January 2020

5. An Assessment Panel comprised of Members of the Conduct Advisory Panel met on 9 January 2020 to consider the complaints made against Cllr Woodward by Mr Collier and Mr Morris. The decision of the Assessment Panel was to refer the complaints to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

Following the decision of the Assessment Panel on 9 January 2020 an Investigator was accordingly appointed by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Conduct Advisory Panel – Mr Simon Goacher, a solicitor and partner with Weightman's LLP, a national firm

specialising in public law. Following completion of his investigation an investigation report was prepared by the Investigator. A copy of the investigation report is contained at Annex 1, Evidence referred to in the investigation report is contained at Annex 2. In accordance with the Conduct Arrangements, both Cllr Woodward and the two complainants have had the opportunity to comment on the draft report prior to it being finalised. Neither Mr Collier nor Mr Morris had any comments on the draft report before it was finalised. A copy of Cllr Woodward's comments on the draft investigation report is included at SG14 of the evidence bundle at Annex 2. A copy of Cllr Woodward's further representations and supporting evidence is contained at Annex 3 and Annex 4(a-o). A copy of an email exchange between the investigator and the professional standards department is included at Annex 5.

The Investigator was of the view that there was a failure by Cllr Woodward to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of the grant of £15,000 made on 7 May 2019 by the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs at the Decision Day of the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage to the Rockets children's motorcycle display team under the Recreation and Heritage Executive Member Grants scheme.

Members' Code of Conduct

6. It is important when considering a complaint made against a Member of the County Council under the Members' Code of Conduct that consideration of the complaint is restricted to elements of the complaint which relate to a Members' conduct as a Member of Hampshire County Council. As the Hearing Panel will note, a number of elements of the complaints made by Mr Collier and Mr Morris against Cllr Woodward relate to matters in his capacity as a Member of Fareham Borough Council. Any consideration of these are matters would need to be under the Fareham Members' Code of Conduct. Likewise, any part of the complaints which relate to Cllr Woodward in his personal capacity are outside the remit of the Hearing Panel.
7. It is considered that the appropriate elements of Mr Collier's and Mr Morris's complaints so far as Cllr Woodward's conduct as a Member of Hampshire County Council goes are those elements which relates to the County Council's grants process, both under the general Member Grant Scheme, available to all County Council Members and administered within Corporate Services following the recommendation of individual elected Member, and grants made under the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Scheme administered by the Culture, Community and Business Services Department of the County Council (CCBS), which grants would normally be made by Cllr Woodward as Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage at a Decision Day. A link to the general Member Grants scheme is attached below for ease of reference.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

A copy of the report “Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20” which contains details of the Recreation and Heritage Community Grant fund scheme and the application by the Rockets is attached at Annex 2a.

8. Grant Applications

Recreation and Heritage Executive Member Community Fund Grant Scheme

- 8.1. An application from the Rockets Children’s Motorcycle Display team for funding of £15,000 under the Recreation and Heritage Executive Member Community Grant Scheme was received on 23 March 2019. A decision to award the funding was made on 7 May 2019 by the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs at the decision day of the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage

Member Grants Scheme – Application by the Rockets Children’s Motorcycle Display Team

- 8.2. An application was made by the Rockets Children’s Motorcycle Display Team for funding of £2000 under the General Members Grant Scheme for the purchase of ramps was received by Cllr Woodward on 19 January 2019. This was forwarded on the same day to Cllr Evans, who supported the grant and the grant was accordingly paid on 6 February 2019.

Member Grant Scheme – Application by Solent Stars Children’s Motorcycle Display Team

- 8.3. A further application from Solent Stars for funding of £2000 under the General Members Grant Scheme for ramps and landing pads was received by Cllr Woodward on 27 August 2019. This was forwarded on the same day to Cllr Evans, who supported the grant on 28 August 2019, and the grant was accordingly made.

Investigation Consideration Panel Meeting 28 September 2020

9. An Investigation Consideration Panel met on 28 September 2020 to consider the outcome of the investigation into the complaints. Under the Conduct Arrangements the Investigation Consideration Panel was required to make one of three decisions:
- 9.1. That the complaint(s) should be referred to a hearing of the Conduct Advisory Panel; or
- 9.2. That the complaint(s) should be disposed of by informal resolution; or

9.3. That there was no failure by Cllr Woodward to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.

The decision of the Investigation Consideration Panel was that the complaints should be referred to a hearing of the Conduct Advisory Panel.

10. **Decision of the Hearing Panel**

10.1. The Hearing Panel is required under the Arrangements to reach one of two conclusions:

10.1.1. That Councillor Woodward failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members; or

10.1.2. That there was no failure by Councillor Woodward to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members.

Options open to the Hearing Panel if event of finding of breach of the Members' Code of Conduct

11. Options open to the Hearing Panel in the event it reaches a conclusion that Cllr Woodward failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members, are set out at Paragraph 12.2 of the Arrangements. The Hearing Panel may decide to:

11.1. Publish a decision notice in such manner as the Hearing Panel considers appropriate

11.2. Report its findings to the County Council for information.

11.3. Recommend to the County Council that Councillor Woodward be censured by resolution of the County Council.

11.4. Recommend to Councillor Woodward's group leader that Councillor Woodward be removed from the Executive and / or Committees of the County Council and / or Outside Bodies (as appropriate).

11.5. Instruct the Monitoring Officer to arrange such training for Councillor Woodward as the Panel considers appropriate.

NB: The above sanctions are not mutually exclusive.

A Hearing Panel has no power to suspend or disqualify a Member or to withdraw a Member's allowances. Removal of a Member from a Committee or Outside Body would require a formal decision of the County Council.

Where the decision of the Hearing Panel is that there has been no breach of the Members' Code of Conduct, then that is the end of the procedure.

No Further Action

12. Should the finding of the Investigation Consideration Panel be that there was no breach of the Members' Code of Conduct, that is the end of the matter.

Conclusion

13. Members of the Hearing Panel are asked to determine the complaints against Cllr Woodward and, should the Hearing Panel find that there has been a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct determine pursuant to the Arrangements how the breach should be disposed of.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because a complaint has been made that a Member of the County Council has breached the Members' Code of Conduct.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

No equalities have been identified.

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

The logo for Weightmans, featuring the word "Weightmans" in white text on a dark teal rectangular background with rounded corners.

Weightmans

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Summary

1. Complaints were made that Cllr Sean Woodward, an elected member of Hampshire County Council (“the Council”), failed to comply with the Council’s Code of Conduct (“the Code”). The complaints were made by Mr Russell Collier and Mr Jason Morris. The complaint was referred to me by the Council’s Monitoring Officer, Barbara Beardwell, to investigate.
2. The complaints relate to Cllr Woodward’s alleged behaviour in relation to grant applications made to the Council by The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team (“the Rockets”).
3. I have investigated whether Cllr Woodward acted in the way alleged, whether in so doing he was acting as a councillor and whether he failed to comply with the Code as a result.
4. As a result of the investigation, I have concluded that Cllr Woodward was acting as a councillor when he engaged in the behaviour complained about.
5. I have also found that Cllr Woodward **failed to comply with the code of conduct** in relation to the way he acted in respect of one of the grant applications.

Relevant Legislation

6. The Localism Act 2011 (“the 2011 Act”) has governed standards of conduct for elected members in England since July 2012.

Under the 2011 Act, the Council:

- a. is under a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct;
- b. must adopt a Code of Conduct which is consistent with the statutory principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership;
- c. must have in place arrangements for investigating allegations of failure to comply with the Code, and taking decisions about them, including appointing one or more Independent Persons, one of whose views must be sought before a decision is made, and one of whose views may be sought by the member against whom an allegation is made.

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7. Section 27 (2) of the 2011 Act states:

In discharging its duty under subsection (1), a relevant authority must, in particular, adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity.

Therefore, the Code applies only when a councillor is acting in their capacity as a councillor.

8. The Council has adopted the Code pursuant to the 2011 Act (SG1).

9. So far as material, the Code provides as follows:

2. Scope

This Code applies to all Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council when acting in their official capacity, or when giving the impression that they are acting as a representative of the County Council....

3. General obligations of Members and Co-opted Members

As a Member of Hampshire County Council, your conduct will address the principles of the Code of Conduct by:

- 3.1. *Representing the needs of residents, and putting their interests first.*
- 3.2. *Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of communities within the administrative area of Hampshire County Council and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.*
- 3.3. *Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the County Council's area, or the good governance of the County Council in a proper manner.*
- 3.4. *Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by placing yourself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way you perform your duties.*

- 3.6. *Being accountable for your decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally.*
- 3.7. *Contributing to making the County Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible.*
- 3.8. *Restricting access to information when the wider public interest the County Council's Constitution, or the law requires it.*

Part 5: Registration and Disclosure of Personal Interests

2. *You have a "personal interest" in an item of business where it relates to or is likely to affect any of the following bodies of which you are a member: a public or charitable body, any body to which you have been appointed by the authority, any political party, trade union or other body one of whose principal purposes is to influence public opinion or policy.*
3. *You also have a "personal interest" in an item of business where a decision in relation to it might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or person with whom you have a close association, more than other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the authority's area.*
4. *You shall disclose a "personal interest" at a meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive, where you consider that interest to be relevant to an item of business being considered at that meeting. The disclosure shall be made at the commencement of the meeting, or when the interest becomes apparent, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.*
5. *Disclosure of a personal interest does not affect your ability to participate in discussion or vote on the relevant item, provided it is not also a disclosable pecuniary interest. If you consider, having taken advice in appropriate circumstances, you should not participate in the business being considered, you should leave the chamber or room where the business is being considered, after exercising any right to speak which a member of the public would have.*

Councillor details

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10. Cllr Woodward has been a member of the Council for approximately 15 years. He explained that he has been the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage since May 2018 and had previously been the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment between 2013 and 2016. Cllr Woodward is also a member and leader of Fareham Borough Council ("FBC").

Background

11. This complaint arose as a result of alleged conduct by Cllr Woodward. The Rockets made two grant applications to the Council. The complainants were directors of the Rockets at the time the applications were made and processed by the Council. The first application was to Cllr Woodward in his capacity as a local member for £2,000. This grant was awarded but Cllr Woodward requested that a councillor for a neighbouring area, Cllr Evans, make the decision, which he did. Cllr Woodward did not explicitly state why he asked Cllr Evans to make the decision. However, he has stated that he did so because Ms A, a Director of the Rockets, had by this time become an employee of a company owned by Cllr Woodward.
12. The second application was for a grant for £15,000 towards the cost of a lorry for the team from the Council's Recreation and Community Heritage Fund. As Cabinet member for Recreation and Heritage, Cllr Woodward is the decision maker for these grants.
13. Cllr Woodward indicated that he would not make the decision because of his interest and the decision to award the grant was made by another Cabinet member, Cllr Heron. Cllr Heron agreed the application. The grant was subject to matched funding, including a grant of £15,000 from FBC.
14. However, Cllr Woodward had extensive contact with officers about the grant. He also assisted Ms A with the grant application. The Council officers state that he also requested that the decision day on the grant application be brought forward. The complainants state that they were told by Ms A that Cllr Woodward did this because there had been a change of leader and he was concerned that the leader might appoint another councillor to the Cabinet portfolio and he wanted the grant application determined before that. Cllr Woodward told me that he recalled the decision day being changed but he did not recall why.
15. After the decision was made by Cllr Heron there was a falling out between the directors of the Rockets. This led to Ms A setting up a separate organisation, Solent Stars. Ms A asked that the Rockets grant be made

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instead to Solent Stars. Cllr Woodward had contact with officers in support of this. The complainants objected. Another similar organisation also objected. Ultimately the grant was not paid to any organisation.

16. In addition the Solent Stars also made an application for a grant of £2,000 to Cllr Woodward as a local member. This was also determined by Cllr Evans who agreed to award the grant.
17. The complainants allege that Cllr Woodward wrote the Rockets grant application for the £15,000 grant and was inappropriately involved in the authorisation of the grant.

The evidence obtained

18. The following witnesses were interviewed during the investigation:

Russell Collier	(SG2)
Jason Morris	(SG3)
Felicity Roe	(SG4)
Cllr Heron	(SG5)
Cllr Evans	(SG6)
Cllr Woodward	(SG7)

19. All have agreed a written record of their interviews.
20. The Council's Monitoring Officer described the process leading to my instructions and supplied me copies of the complaints (SG8). She also supplied me with the Executive Decision Record of the decision of Cllr Heron (SG9). She provided me with further relevant information including a note of a conversation which she had with Cllr Woodward about the Solent Stars application (SG10)
21. I also exchanged correspondence with Cllr Woodward's solicitors (SG11).

Evidence of Russell Collier

22. Mr Collier confirmed that he had made a complaint against Cllr Woodward. He confirmed that the complaint was accurate to the best of his knowledge and that he wished the complaint to be pursued.
23. Mr Collier explained that he first became aware of Cllr Woodward through the Rockets. He explained that the Rockets applied for grants from the Council and from FBC. He stated that the grant application to the Council was for £15,000 to be matched by FBC. He stated that the limit for such

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grants had been raised by FBC from £5,000 to £15,000. Mr Collier stated that all of the information which he had about the grant application came from Cllr Woodward and Ms A.

24. Mr Collier stated that he was told by Ms A and Cllr Woodward that the decision by the Council about the grant had been brought forward. He stated that this was in around May/April 2019. He stated that the new leader of the Council had been due to appoint a new cabinet at 10.00am on a day so the decision on the grant had been brought forward to 9.30 in case Cllr Woodward was replaced as the cabinet member. Mr Collier stated that he was told this by Cllr Woodward and Ms A before the meeting to take the decision had taken place. Mr Collier stated that he could not remember the specific date when the conversation had taken place and he had nothing in writing about it.
25. Mr Collier stated that Cllr Woodward had turned up at every training event, show and events for the Rockets.
26. I asked Mr Collier about a comment in the complaint about texts which he said Mr Morris had told him about which Ms A had sent to him about Cllr Woodward "being creepy". He stated that he had not seen the texts himself but had been told by Mr Morris about them.
27. Mr Collier stated that, for example, a car crashed outside Ms A's house and Cllr Woodward called her to say that he happened to be in the area when it happened. He stated that Cllr Woodward lives about 5-6 miles away from Ms A which is about a 20-25 minute journey.
28. Mr Collier stated that he and Mr Morris raised their concerns with Ms A but it was all very tongue in cheek as they were friends and got on well. He explained that they had set up the Rockets together. Mr Collier stated that Cllr Woodward clearly wanted a relationship with Ms A. He stated that Ms A was influenced by Cllr Woodward's power and status. He stated that Ms A was closer to Mr Morris than him. He said that both Ms A and Mr Morris had said to him that Cllr Woodward was obsessed with Ms A.
29. Mr Collier stated that Cllr Woodward also kept ringing chief inspector Mark Lewis of Hampshire Police. Mr Collier stated that CI Lewis had told him that he had told Cllr Woodward to leave him alone because Cllr Woodward was always asking him for favours. Mr Collier stated that Cllr Woodward thought CI Lewis was his borough commander but he is not. He stated that during the altercation near Ms A's home which had led to complaints to Hampshire Police, Cllr Woodward had told Mr Collier that he was on the phone to his borough commander.

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30. Mr Collier stated that he had just wanted all of this to go away but Cllr Woodward was pursuing them and interfering with his life. He stated that Cllr Woodward had got him placed on directed duties.
31. Mr Collier stated that the head teacher had asked for information from professional standards. He stated that the police professional standards had confirmed that no further action would be taken. I asked if he could provide confirmation of this and Mr Collier said that he would check and send me what he had. He stated that it had been confirmed that no further action would be taken against him. He stated that he had been told that Ms A had assaulted him but no further action would be taken against her because it was not in the public interest. Mr Collier stated that Cllr Woodward had complained about the investigation and about the police sergeant who attended the incident.
32. I asked Mr Collier about the statement in the complaint that Cllr Woodward had written up and signed off the grants himself. He stated that Ms A had told them that. He stated that they did not know about these grants but Cllr Woodward told them about it. He stated that Ms A asked Cllr Woodward how to do it. He explained that when they did an audit there were emails back and forward between Ms A and Cllr Woodward about the application. Mr Collier stated that one of the applications was done in his name and Ms A had told him that Cllr Woodward had approved it.
33. Mr Collier stated that there was a grant which had been given to them of £2,000 for ramps. He stated that Cllr Woodward had been told that they no longer needed the ramps and Cllr Woodward had told them that as long as they spent it on other things for the Rockets they could do so. He stated that they spent it on clothing for the children. Mr Collier stated that Cllr Woodward told them that they could do it but when they fell out he complained about it. He stated that he assumed that it was Ms A or Cllr Woodward who had complained about it. He stated that they had been told this by Cllr Woodward before they received the grant. Mr Collier stated that he had nothing in writing about this. Mr Collier stated that the Council was now threatening the Rockets with legal action to recover the grant.
34. Mr Collier stated that the £15,000 grant was also stopped by the Council. He stated that they asked the Council why it had been stopped. He stated that they were told that FBC had stopped their grant so the Council had stopped theirs too.
35. Mr Collier stated that Ms A tried to get a grant for her new team as she had a grand plan to buy a lorry. He stated that eventually she realised it would

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look bad so withdrew the application but the lorry was bought using sponsorship money instead.

Evidence of Jason Morris

36. Mr Morris confirmed that he had made a complaint against Cllr Woodward. He confirmed that the complaint was accurate to the best of his knowledge and that he wished the complaint to be pursued.
37. I asked Mr Morris about a comment in his complaint that Cllr Woodward managed to secure two training grounds for the Rockets. Mr Morris stated that this did not seem out of place at the time as it was in the early days of Cllr Woodward's involvement. He stated that the first site was Knowle Village field which was great at the time and he understood it belonged to a local developer who subsequently obtained planning permission to build on the site. He stated that the Rockets subsequently moved. Mr Morris stated that he had no specific information to suggest that there was anything untoward in this.
38. Mr Morris stated that Cllr Woodward gave a grant of £2,000 to the Rockets from his personal grant. He stated that this was allocated to buy some ramps. He stated that he said to Ms A that they were getting the ramps free from SEMMCO as part of sponsorship. He said that Ms A said that she would talk to Cllr Woodward about it. He stated that Ms A told him that Cllr Woodward had said it was ok and they would put it down as being used for ramps but as long as they used it for the team that was fine. Mr Morris stated that this did not sit well with him and he told Ms A it would come back to bite them but Ms A said that Cllr Woodward had said it was fine.
39. Mr Morris stated that this had now come back to bite them. He explained that a complaint had been made to the Council that the money had not been used for the purpose it had been granted. He stated that he assumed that the complaint had been made to the Council about this, he assumed by Ms A or Cllr Woodward. He stated that the Council had asked for the money back. Mr Morris stated that Ms A did all the accounts for this. He said that Ms A had completed the application for this grant with help from Cllr Woodward.
40. I asked Mr Morris about the comment in his complaint that Cllr Woodward had completed the grant application for the £15,000 grant, how did he know that? He said that Ms A had said to him that Cllr Woodward had done the application. He stated that they also applied for a grant of £15,000 from FBC. He stated that FBC had increased the level of the grant from £5,000 to £15,000. Mr Morris stated that all of the information he had

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about the grant application came from Ms A. He stated that it was Ms A who told him that Cllr Woodward had written the application.

41. Mr Morris stated that, at that time, Ms A did not want the same out of the relationship with Cllr Woodward as Cllr Woodward did. He stated that one day he received a telephone call from Ms A asking him if he would go round to her house because Cllr Woodward was there and would not leave and was getting touchy feely. He stated that the call was at 9.30pm and he went to Ms A's house. Mr Morris stated that his wife was not very happy when he told her what was happening. He stated that he went to Ms A's house and made an excuse for being there and Cllr Woodward left. He stated that Ms A thanked him and said that Cllr Woodward had been getting full on. He stated that he left straight afterwards.
42. Mr Morris stated that Ms A got into a panic about getting the grant. He explained that Ms A told him that the executive leadership of the Council was due to change at 10.00am on a particular day and the leader could choose to replace Cllr Woodward and he might not be in a position to sign off the grant. Mr Morris stated that he had an email from the Council saying when the grant would be being discussed, which he would send to me.
43. Mr Morris stated that all the information which he had about the grant came from Ms A; he had not had any direct discussions with Cllr Woodward. Mr Morris stated that he had not had much direct contact with Cllr Woodward apart from him coming to the Rockets' events.
44. Mr Morris stated that he had challenged Cllr Woodward about driving a Mazda car which he had obtained through sponsorship. He stated that Cllr Woodward had told him that he was insured. He stated that he checked with Mazda who told him that Cllr Woodward was not insured. Mr Morris stated that when he told Cllr Woodward this Cllr Woodward said that he was insured through the Council's insurance.
45. Mr Morris stated that the grants were pulled away. He stated that they were not told much. He stated that they suspected that Ms A had taken the grants over to the new outfit she had set up. He said they found out that she had withdrawn her applications for grants but had been given a very large grant upwards of £30,000 from a local developer.

Evidence of Felicity Roe

46. Ms Roe confirmed that she was employed by the Council as its Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services. She explained that she has

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been in post since December 2018. She stated that Cllr Woodward is the cabinet member for some of her services.

47. Ms Roe explained that each Council member has a budget of £8,000 per year for local grants. She stated that payments out of these budgets are approved by the members themselves and administered by member services.
48. Ms Roe stated that her directorate oversees the Recreation and Community Heritage Fund grants. She stated that part of her department's budget is set aside for these grants. She explained that the grants are administered in accordance with criteria and applications are made online. She stated that administrative staff vet all applications and then, if they meet the criteria, put them to Cllr Woodward as the cabinet member to approve. She explained that there will be a report to Cllr Woodward which will either recommend the grant for approval or, if it is not recommended for approval, set out the reasons why.
49. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward's decisions are published. She stated that there is usually one report with a fairly long appendix with details of all of the grants.
50. Ms Roe explained that the Assistant Director who works in her team had produced a note setting out the chronology and actions in relation to the grant applications made by the Rockets and the Solent Stars Motorcycle Display Team ("Solent Stars") (SG12). She stated that she had limited direct involvement with Cllr Woodward over the grants and most of the discussions or emails had been with the Assistant Director and Officer A, another officer in her department.
51. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward became the cabinet member in May 2018. She stated that he spoke to the Assistant Director some time afterwards about how funding worked. He wanted to change the system of funding and to widen the criteria. She stated that the system was changed in accordance with Cllr Woodward's wishes in January 2019.
52. Ms Roe stated that there were two conversations between Cllr Woodward and The Assistant Director in the lead up to the decision in January 2019. She explained that there were no notes of the discussions but The Assistant Director recalled them. Ms Roe explained that Cllr Woodward had told The Assistant Director that there was a grant by a motorcycle club coming up.
53. Ms Roe stated that, immediately after the changes to the grant scheme were approved on 14 January 2019, Cllr Woodward talked to The Assistant

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Director and Officer A about his preferred approach to the new grants and specifically mentioned a grant of £15,000 towards the costs of a lorry for a children's motorcycle team.

54. Ms Roe stated that on 19 March 2019 Cllr Woodward had emailed Officer A, on behalf of the Rockets, stating that after partially completing the application form they had lost it.
55. Ms Roe stated that there were then a further 8 emails between Cllr Woodward and Officer A about issues to do with the grant application. Ms Roe stated that, in one of the emails, Cllr Woodward asked when the grant application would come to him for a decision and Officer A replied hopefully the decision day in May 2019.
56. Ms Roe stated that the application by the Rockets was submitted in March 2019 but it lacked detail and Officer A requested more information.
57. Ms Roe stated that throughout March and April 2019 Cllr Woodward spoke to her about getting his HGV driver's licence.
58. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward had telephoned The Assistant Director to ask the May decision day to be moved. She stated that there was no written record of the conversation but an email from Officer A to Ms Roe confirmed that The Assistant Director had asked for the day to be moved.
59. Ms Roe stated that Emma Clarke, an officer in the Council's democratic services team, emailed Cllr Woodward on 17 April 2019 stating that it was not possible to bring the decision day forward to April and suggested 7 May 2019 in the afternoon. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward responded saying yes to 7 May 2019 but saying he wanted the decision day to be in the morning.
60. Ms Roe explained that, at the time, the Council was in the process of selecting a new leader as the previous leader had retired. She explained that the new leader was due to be appointed by the Council on the afternoon of 7 May 2019. She stated that the new leader would then appoint their cabinet, so Cllr Woodward might not have been the cabinet member after that.
61. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward said that he had an interest and asked Cllr Heron to make the decision on the grant application.
62. In response to a question on whether Cllr Woodward left the room while Cllr Heron made the decision, Ms Roe stated that he did not leave the

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room, but that leaving the room would NOT be a normal process within the County Council decision making. She stated that she did not know whether there had been any discussion about the application between Cllr Woodward and Cllr Heron.

63. Ms Roe stated that the officer recommendation was to approve the application. She stated that they felt under pressure with the application. She stated that the number of emails from Cllr Woodward on this application was very unusual. She stated that she was in no doubt that the moving of the decision day was due to the Rockets' grant application. She stated that this was very unusual.
64. Ms Roe stated that the grant was approved and an email was sent to the Rockets on 7 May 2019 confirming this, which was followed by a formal offer letter on 21 May 2019. She stated that Mr Collier signed the letter on behalf of the Rockets on 22 May 2019 and returned the completed BACS form.
65. Ms Roe stated that on 14 May 2019 Cllr Woodward telephoned The Assistant Director to say that one of the directors, Ms A, had left the Rockets and had set up a separate CIC and all contracts were to be novated to the new organisation. Cllr Woodward asked if the Council could transfer the grant to the new organisation and said that FBC would be transferring its grant. Ms Roe stated that The Assistant Director asked Ms A for more details which Ms A provided on 17 June 2019. Ms Roe stated that The Assistant Director then spoke to David Kelly, the head of legal services, about the situation. Ms Roe stated that on 18 June 2019 the Council received a letter from solicitors on behalf of two of the three directors of the Rockets stating that the grant should go to the Rockets and not Ms A's new company.
66. Ms Roe stated that on 18 June 2019 Cllr Heron received an email from a director of the Tigers Children's Motorcycle Display Team asking why the Rockets had been awarded £15,000 which was giving them an advantage over other similar organisations.
67. Ms Roe stated that on 19 June 2019 Cllr Woodward telephoned The Assistant Director and said that he did not want the grant to be paid to either organisation. He stated that FBC had also received a letter from a solicitor and would not be giving a grant. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward also told The Assistant Director that he had been witness to an assault which was being investigated by the police.

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68. Ms Roe stated that on 19 June 2019 The Assistant Director emailed Cllr Woodward asking for details of the assault, which he provided.
69. Ms Roe stated that on 19 June 2019 Cllr Woodward emailed The Assistant Director to say that FBC had cancelled their grant application for the Rockets. She stated that The Assistant Director received an email from FBC confirming this later that day.
70. Ms Roe stated that on 4 July 2019 the Council's legal department sent out a letter to the Rockets confirming that no grant would be paid.
71. Ms Roe stated that Ms A made a fresh application on behalf of Solent Stars to the Council on 2 October 2019. Ms Roe stated that a considerable amount of information was missing. She stated that, on the same date as the grant was submitted, Cllr Woodward also telephoned Officer A saying that he was keen for a decision to be made as soon as possible. Ms Roe stated that there was no written record of that telephone conversation. Ms Roe stated that the officers concerned had never previously experienced a member of the Council put as much pressure on in relation to a grant application.
72. Ms Roe stated that The Assistant Director emailed Cllr Woodward on 22 October 2019 at 11.17am and advised him that the advice of the legal department was that the grant should not be awarded. She stated that at 11.25am Cllr Woodward telephoned The Assistant Director to ask why the application was not eligible for a grant when FBC was awarding one. Ms Roe stated that The Assistant Director told Cllr Woodward that a complaint had been made to Cllr Heron, that the Council only had one quote for the work and that the majority of the application was now mostly for the fit out as the vehicle had been bought and this was not really within the grant criteria.
73. Ms Roe stated that on that same day The Assistant Director telephoned Mr Kelly. Ms Roe stated that at 11.40am Cllr Woodward telephoned The Assistant Director and told her that he had spoken to Barbara Beardwell, the Council's head of law and governance, who had said she was looking at it in more detail. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward explained to The Assistant Director that the fit out costs were due to conditions laid down by The Showman's Guild.
74. Ms Roe stated that on 24 October 2019 Ms A sent the Council further information about the Showman's Guild.

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75. Ms Roe stated that in early November 2019 the Council's grants team advised Ms A that it had not been able to process the Solent Stars' grant application in time for the November decision day.
76. Ms Roe stated that on 21 November 2019 Ms A emailed the Council to withdraw the grant application and they had "many new recruits and a number of show bookings for 2020", which meant that they could pay for the lorry to be fitted out.
77. Ms Roe stated that Cllr Woodward never said that he had any interest in the Solent Stars' grant application but she had no doubt that he would have declared an interest and would not have made the decision had it proceeded. She stated that Cllr Woodward had showed a member of staff at the Council a video of him driving the Solent Stars' lorry.
78. After the interview Ms Roe provided me with copies of relevant emails to support the evidence provided (SG13).

Evidence of Cllr Heron

79. Cllr Heron confirmed that he is a member of the Council. He explained that he has been a member for approximately 12 years. He explained that he has been a member of the executive member for just over a year.
80. Cllr Heron explained that executive members make a lot of decisions in their roles. He stated that he has done quite a few of them for other members; it is not common but not that unusual either.
81. He stated that if an executive member has an interest they go to the leader of the Council and he agrees that a decision can be made by another executive member. He stated that he is often in the Council's offices on decision days so can make a decision for others.
82. Cllr Heron stated that as far, as he could recall, Cllr Woodward did not discuss with him what his interest was in the application by the Rockets. He stated that he still did not know what Cllr Woodward's interest was. He said that either the application would be considered at his own decision day though it used to be more common that he would attend Cllr Woodward's decision day and take over for that item.
83. Cllr Heron stated that this application might have been the first he did for another member; it was certainly the first for Cllr Woodward. He stated that he always asks officers if they have anything to add to their reports on such applications.

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84. I asked Cllr Heron if Cllr Woodward left the room whilst he considered the application by the Rockets. He stated that he did not think that Cllr Woodward did leave the room. He stated that he approved the decision. He stated that he probably stayed for the rest of the meeting; he explained that decision day meetings are not usually that long.
85. Cllr Heron stated that he had not had any discussions with Cllr Woodward about the application since the meeting. He stated that he had received an email on 17 June 2019 from a gentleman inquiring why the grant to the Rockets had been made. He stated that he referred the letter to the director for a response. He stated that he had also been copied in to an email from the Council saying that the grant would not be paid.
86. Cllr Heron stated that there was no discussion of the details of the application and Cllr Woodward did not raise any issues. Cllr Heron stated that he would have assumed that Cllr Woodward and the director would not have any issues with the application if it was coming to decision day. Cllr Heron stated that he would have raised concerns if he had any. He stated that Cllr Woodward never discussed the application with him and never placed any pressure on him to reach a particular decision.

Evidence Cllr Evans

87. Cllr Evans confirmed that he is a member of the Council and that he has been a member for approximately 14 years.
88. He stated that if a councillor feels that they have an interest in an application to them for a grant from their budget, then they can ask another councillor to endorse their decision. He stated that Cllr Woodward had asked him on one or two occasions if he would look at an application.
89. I asked Cllr Evans about an application for a grant by the Rockets. He stated that Cllr Woodward had asked him to look at it because he had an interest but he did not know what that interest was. He stated that he just looked at whether it was reasonable and if he would agree to it. He stated that he looked at it in exactly the same way as he would look at an application he had received in his own area.
90. Cllr Evans stated that Cllr Woodward emailed him asking if he would look at the application. He stated that Cllr Woodward did not tell him what his interest was and he did not ask.

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91. Cllr Evans explained that the system is online, so he did not see anything on paper. He stated that he sent back a message to Cllr Woodward saying that he was happy with the application. He stated that, as he was only counter signing it, he would not hear the outcome.
92. Cllr Evans stated that he had no concerns about the application. He explained that there are two types of grant applications and depending on financial levels for the higher amounts more data is required for some. He stated that the onus is on the applicant to provide the information. He stated that it is a quick process and, if it is approved, the officers process the payments unless they have any concerns.
93. Cllr Evans stated that he has not discussed the grant with Cllr Woodward since it was made.

Evidence of Cllr Woodward

94. Cllr Woodward confirmed that he is a member of the Council. He explained that he has been a member for approximately 15 years. He explained that he has been the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage since May 2018 and had previously been the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment between 2013 and 2016.
95. Cllr Woodward confirmed that he had received no training on the Code that he could recall in his role as a member of the Council. He explained that as well as being a member of the Council he is also the leader of FBC. He confirmed that he understood the requirement to comply with the code of conduct whilst acting as a councillor.
96. Cllr Woodward stated that the complainants had made complaints to the Council and also to the Conservative Party and FBC. He stated that all the other complaints had been rejected with the conclusion that there had been no breach of the code of conduct. There had also been a complaint to the police which similarly was not upheld. He stated that he believed that letters had gone out to the complainants in the last few days from FBC informing them that their complaints were not upheld and that there had been no breach of the FBC code of conduct.
97. Cllr Woodward stated that he first heard from the Rockets in July 2018. He explained that one of the complainants, Mr Morris, came to see him together with another director, Ms A. He stated that they contacted him as they were not going to be able to stay on their training site in Millbrook and asked for his help. He stated that he found a field in Knowle for them and when he contacted Ms A to tell her she was delighted. Cllr Woodward

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stated that he had never heard of the Rockets or met any of them before this. He stated that the other complainant, Mr Collier, was not present at the meeting.

98. Cllr Woodward stated that in October 2018 Ms A contacted him again and asked if he would like to go and watch one of the Rockets' training sessions and to present the trophies at their award ceremony. He stated that he was impressed by what he saw when he attended with his son. He stated that the Rockets had 12 or more youngsters and families involved in a wholesome activity. He stated that they told him that they wanted to build the team and get more equipment and some transport for moving the equipment.
99. Cllr Woodward stated that in January 2019 a grant application was made to the Council. He explained that each councillor has £8,000 available to make grants to organisations in their area.
100. Cllr Woodward stated that he had been very impressed with Ms A as an individual. He stated that they are always looking for candidates to stand in local elections. He stated that he went to see her in November 2018 to talk with her about the possibility of becoming a councillor. She agreed to think about it.
101. Cllr Woodward explained that Ms A was also involved in marketing and the healthcare company he owns a 50% share in was looking for a marketing assistant. He stated that Ms A began working for the company. He stated that he is not involved in the day to day management of the company. He stated that the grant application from the Rockets came in just after the time Ms A had started to work for the company.
102. Cllr Woodward stated that he thought that as Ms A was now working for the company he owned he should not agree the grant and so contacted Cllr Evans who is a councillor for an adjacent area to him. He explained that it was an online process and he asked Cllr Evans if he would look at it. He explained that the first time he tried to do it he had not done it properly. He stated that 2 weeks later he contacted an officer, David Foley, and said that the grant application did not seem to have found its way to Cllr Evans. He explained that Mr Foley contacted Cllr Evans and the grant was approved and paid. He stated that this was in February 2019 and the complaint was not made until October 2019.
103. Cllr Woodward stated that the grant was for the Rockets to buy ramps. He stated that he subsequently found out in Mr Collier's complaint about a claim that the ramps had been provided for free. He said that he had

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formally made a complaint to investigate that as it had not been used for what the grant was paid for. I asked Cllr Woodward about a suggestion by the complainants that Cllr Woodward had said that they could use the grant for other purposes. He stated that he absolutely did not say that and that it was a complete lie. Cllr Woodward stated that he was advised that SEMMCO, who had supplied the ramps, had not been paid as they should have been. He stated that half of the order had been delivered and invoiced. Mr Collier and Mr Morris did not pay the bill so the other half of the order was not supplied.

104. Cllr Woodward stated that another project the Rockets were keen to pursue had been to get a lorry to transport the motorbikes. He explained that they had an old lorry which was not in the best of order and they wanted to get a newer, larger one to take to show bookings around the country. He explained that he told them that if they raised money themselves they could apply to the Council for a grant.
105. Cllr Woodward stated that the grant application was in the name of Mr Collier who signed the grant funding agreement. He stated that he believed that Ms A had done all the work on the application. He stated that they applied to the Council for £15,000, to FBC for £15,000 and were also going to work on raising £15,000 themselves. He stated that the grant came within his purview as Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage.
106. Cllr Woodward stated that Officer A sends him a spreadsheet periodically with details of the grant applications. He stated that in April 2019 he sent the spreadsheet to Officer A and filled in the section relating to the Rockets' application confirming that he had an interest, that it should be conditional on them being a community interest company or charity and FBC matching support and that they would perform free shows locally and there would be community access to the group.
107. I asked Cllr Woodward about the number of emails which he sent to officers about the application. He stated that he could only remember sending two emails. He stated that his contact with officers about the Rockets' grant was not unusual. He stated that it depends on the grant and that he had many discussions with different organisations on grant applications including visiting them. He stated that he had tried to formalise things through using the spreadsheet for his comments.
108. Cllr Woodward stated that the Leader had approved that a different Executive Member should make the decision. He stated that in reality the officers arrange this and the Leader approves it. He stated that he and Cllr

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Heron often have the same decision day date so it was logical that he be asked to make the decision.

109. I asked Cllr Woodward why the decision day had been moved. He stated that he did recall that the decision day was moved but he did not recall why. He stated that he may not have been able to make a suggested date and so needed to move it but he could not remember. Cllr Woodward stated that the decision days can be quite ad hoc with little notice of change and be moved around depending on the business to be decided. He stated that this happens with all Executive Members.
110. Cllr Woodward stated that the decision was made at a separate meeting, not his meeting. He stated that Cllr Heron made it at his decision day meeting.
111. I asked Cllr Woodward about the allegation that he wrote the grant application. He stated that he did not but gave all the advice and support possible in the knowledge that he would not be making the decision. He often gave advice to grant applicants when asked, in the same way that the officers writing the report would do. He stated that the main issue for the Rockets was saving the application which was lost at one point. He stated that he also gave a link to a generic business plan at one point. He stated that he cast his eye over the application and responded to a couple of queries that Ms A raised with him. He stated that he did help Ms A but the application was not going to be decided by him.
112. I asked Cllr Woodward if he had any discussions with Cllr Heron about the application. He stated that he simply explained to Cllr Heron that he had decided that he would not make the decision as he had a personal interest but did not have any discussion about the application itself.
113. Cllr Woodward confirmed that he had contacted The Assistant Director when Ms A left the Rockets and set up her own team as Ms A had approached him to ask if the grant could be novated. Cllr Woodward stated that The Assistant Director suggested that Ms A should write to her. He stated that Ms A had contacted him and asked what she should do. He stated that he would find out an answer for her as any councillor would.
114. I asked Cllr Woodward about what involvement he had in the application to the Council by the Solent Stars Community Interest Company for a grant. He stated that he knew that Ms A had made an application which was probably identical to the previous application by the Rockets. He stated that Ms A then withdrew it. He stated that he thought he had asked officers about the progress of the application as it had not appeared on his regular

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spreadsheet. He stated that he prefaced the enquiry by saying it was not a decision he would be involved in as he knew the applicant. Officer A had advised that he spoke to The Assistant Director who advised him to speak to Ms Beardwell. They said the applicant needed to show how the grant would help the group as much of the funding was related to living accommodation. This related to obtaining Showman's Guild exemptions from testing regimes. He passed that information back to Ms A who subsequently wrote further to clarify. She then withdrew the application before it could be considered.

115. I asked Cllr Woodward if Ms A had attended Council functions with him. Cllr Woodward stated that Ms A had been selected as a prospective candidate for FBC elections in May 2020 and he had taken her to a small number of events with him as his guest so she could understand the role better. Cllr Woodward stated that Ms A had ceased working for his company in April 2019 so had only worked there for four months. He stated that he probably would not even have had an interest if the Solent Stars application had come to him as she would no longer have been an employee of his company though she was a friend so he still would not have taken the decision.

116. Cllr Woodward stated that he believed that the complaints were vexatious as he was sure they would not have been made if he had not been a witness to the assault. He stated that the grants which they were complaining of had been agreed many months before the complaints were made and in the event only the first grant for £2,000 had been paid. He had declared a personal interest in the grant and the Council's rules allow Members to both speak and vote on matters in which they have a personal interest. He had chosen to not only rightly declare his interest but to go even further than he needed to and not to make the actual decisions.

117. After the interview I asked Cllr Woodward some further questions. I asked him:

You mentioned when we met that one of the complainants had told you that the grant monies had not been used to pay for ramps. Are you able to tell me when that was? Do you have anything in writing about that from them?

Also it has been suggested that you obtained your HGV licence and have been video driving the lorry purchased by the Solent Stars, is this true?

118. Cllr Woodward instructed solicitors. The solicitors wrote to me stating:

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...in your email to our client of 24 March 2020 following your interview with him you asked him various further questions, none of which seemed to have any real relevance to the specific areas of complaint (in particular we cannot see how our client obtaining an HGV Licence and been seen video driving a lorry can be at all pertinent to your investigation).

It is as much your raising these questions as the questions themselves that have given rise to the concern on the part of our client that your investigation seems to be broadening into matters that have nothing to do at all with our client's conduct as a County Councilor and also adding fuel to his perception that you are allowing yourself to be drawn into what are essentially personal matters that are nothing at all to do with the Code of Conduct. Our client has so far co-operated with the investigation, and remains willing to do so, but against a backdrop of persistent potentially defamatory statements about him by the complainants is concerned that frivolous and vexatious matters are being given greater substance than they deserve and valuable time and money is being expended on something which is unjustified and which, as we have said has already been summarily disposed of by two other bodies.

We would be grateful, therefore, if you would provide us with the appropriate reassurance that the scope of your investigation will indeed be limited to the essential elements of the complaints rather than extraneous matters that have no bearing on them. This is especially important given we understand the outcome of your investigation could become public and so risks repeating potentially defamatory allegations about our client. We are in the process of advising our client about his remedies in relation to those allegations.

119. I responded to the solicitors reiterating the need for responses to the questions which I had raised to progress my investigation. The solicitors responded:

- 1. My client never said that one of the complainants gave him this information. A member of the team placed the orders with the ramp suppliers and Ms A arranged the collection of the ramps. She can certainly confirm that there was never any suggestion of the ramps being free. The value of the ramps was around £8,000 but the suppliers agreed to supply them for £2,000. There were four ramps and three were supplied. Half the order by value was supplied. When no money was*

forthcoming the final ramp, the largest, a car ramp, was withheld.

2. *Correct, the relevance of this question remains beyond us. How would our client know whether he was videoed driving the lorry. To put this matter to bed he does have the necessary licence and he has driven a number of lorries including the Solent Stars one in February 2020.*

Findings of fact

120. I must make findings on the balance of probabilities and that is the test which I have applied in relation to the material facts. I make the following findings:

- a. Cllr Woodward was involved in the grant application for the £15,000 grant by helping Ms A with the application, by liaising with officers, by chasing officers and pressing for decisions;
- b. Cllr Woodward arranged with officers for the decision day for the determination of the grant application to be changed;
- c. Cllr Woodward arranged for the date to be changed to ensure that he would still be the relevant Cabinet member when the grant application was determined;
- d. Cllr Woodward did not make the decisions to award the grants;
- e. It is disputed whether Cllr Woodward remained in the room when Cllr Heron made the decision;
- f. Cllr Woodward did not indicate at the time what his interest was that meant that he should not make the decision on whether or not to award the grant;
- g. Cllr Woodward has since stated that he did not make the decisions because Ms A was employed by a company which he owned;
- h. Ms A is now a candidate for election for FBC and has accompanied Cllr Woodward at official Council events;
- i. The £15,000 grant was not paid to the Rockets by the Council;
- j. Cllr Woodward supported the Solent Stars' application after Ms A left the Rockets;
- k. Cllr Woodward obtained his HGV licence and has driven the Solent Stars' lorry which was not funded in any part by the Council;

121. I make these findings for the following reasons:

- a. This is the evidence of the officers involved which is supported by documentary evidence. It is not contradicted by Cllr Woodward's evidence;

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- b. This is the evidence of Ms Roe supported by the note prepared by The Assistant Director and the email evidence provided. It is also corroborated by the evidence of the complainants of what they were told by Ms A;
- c. This is the evidence of the complainants who say they were told it by Ms A who was told it by Cllr Woodward. The evidence of the officers supported by emails is that it was Cllr Woodward who requested that the grant application be brought forward to April from 23 May when it was due to be considered. Cllr Woodward told me that he did not recall why it had been brought forward but that it was at his request; he gave no reason and there did not appear to be any reason why the applications could not wait until the 23 May. When the officers suggested the day when the new leader was due to appoint his cabinet, Cllr Woodward asked for it to take place in the morning. All of the evidence put together supports the claim put forward by the complainants;
- d. This is clear from the evidence of the officers and members involved and the records of the decisions;
- e. The evidence on this is not clear. Ms Roe states that Cllr Woodward was present and remained in the room when Cllr Heron made the decision. Cllr Woodward suggested that Cllr Heron made it at his own decision day meeting. Cllr Heron stated that Cllr Woodward was present when he made the decision. The decision notice is silent on the issue.;
- f. This is the evidence of all the members and officers involved;
- g. This is the reason given by Cllr Woodward for why he chose not to take the decisions;
- h. This is the evidence of Cllr Woodward supported by the evidence of officers;
- i. This is not in dispute;
- j. This is supported by the evidence of the officers, including documentary evidence. It is not disputed by Cllr Woodward;
- k. This was accepted by Cllr Woodward;

Reasoning as to whether there has been a failure to comply with the Code.

122. The relevant paragraphs of the Code which I have considered during my investigation are paragraphs 3.1, 3.3, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 and part 5.

123. The test in deciding whether or not there has been a failure to comply with the Code is objective: would a reasonable person aware of all the material facts and ignoring all immaterial factors consider that there has been a breach of the Code?

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124. The Act section 27(2) provides that the code of conduct only applies to the conduct of a member acting in their capacity as such. In my view, at all material times Cllr Woodward was acting in his capacity as a councillor. He and his solicitor have not sought to argue otherwise in respect of the complaint regarding his involvement in the Rockets' grant application. This involved him engaging with officers, other members and representatives of the Rockets about grants for which he was the ward or cabinet member. He was clearly acting as a councillor throughout these interactions.
125. Section 27(2) of the Act provides that the code of conduct only applies to the conduct of a member acting in their capacity as such.
126. The meaning of and extent of "official capacity" was considered by the courts in the cases of *(R) Mullaney v The Adjudication Panel for England* [2009] EWHC 72 (Admin) ("the Mullaney case") and *Livingstone v APE* [2006] EWHC 2533 (Admin) "the Livingstone case". These cases were considered under the previous legislation. However, the principles set out in the decisions in those cases remain relevant to the current law.
127. In the Mullaney case, Charles J recognised that applying the term "is inevitably fact sensitive and whether or not a person is so acting inevitably calls for informed judgment by reference to the facts of the given case."
128. In the Livingstone case, Collins J stated "official capacity will include anything done in dealing with staff, when representing the Council, in dealing with constituents' problems and so on"
129. In considering whether Councillor Woodward was acting in an official capacity, I have also taken into consideration the Standards for England's Case Review 2010, updated on 11 October 2011, which asks the question "When does the Code of Conduct apply?" and states:

Most of the Code's provisions only apply to activities performed whenever members act in an official capacity. This means whenever members conduct the business of their authority, or act, claim to act or give the impression they are acting in their official capacity or are representing their authority...."

Otherwise the Code does not affect a member's private life.

Whether a member has been representing an authority or acting in a private capacity is something which must be established because it is crucial to whether or not the code applies at all. Ideally, this will be

established when assessing a complaint. However, sometimes it will only become clear during an investigation....

Although only activities linked to the functions of a member's office are covered by the Code if what they do is disreputable, a member cannot argue that by misusing their office they are not acting as a councillor and are, therefore, not caught by the provisions of the Code. So, a member who uses a council computer provided to him for council use but who uses it to download child pornography during his private time cannot escape the scope of the Code by arguing that he was not acting as a councillor when he did so.

The Code itself does not provide any further guidance on official capacity... However, there are circumstances when it is clear that the Code operates. These include any meetings of the authority, its executive or any of its committees or sub-committees. Participating in such meetings plainly involves carrying out the business of the authority. When an elected member exercises powers delegated to them as a member of the authority's executive, or holds a surgery for residents of their ward, the member is clearly performing the business of the office to which they have been elected. Members' face-to-face dealings with officers about the business of the authority will almost always mean they are conducting the business of their office under paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Code.

Similarly, members of police or fire authorities will be conducting the business of their office when they attend formal meetings with police or fire officers, or make formal visits to police or fire stations.

The scope of representing an authority is potentially very wide. Standards for England believes that this will cover situations where a member is appointed or nominated by their authority to another body, such as a board of directors or trustees.

130. Standards for England has been abolished and its guidance no longer has any special standing, but the concept of "official capacity" derives from the old national model code and this is a useful analysis.

131. The Council's Code states that it will apply to members when they are "giving the impression that they are acting as a representative of the County Council."

132. I then consider whether, in acting as he did, he failed to comply with the Code.

133. I do not believe that there was anything done by Cllr Woodward in connection with the £2,000 grant application by the Rockets or the Solent Stars which could be said to amount to a failure to comply with the Code. There is no evidence that he was overly involved in either application and Cllr Evans determined the both on their merits.
134. In respect of the £15,000 grant application by the Rockets, the position is different. Cllr Woodward was heavily involved in supporting Ms A in making the application. He has shown an extensive interest in the application from before it was even made. This is supported by the fact that he raised it specifically with officers at the first decision day meeting with them. Ms Roe also indicated that the amount of contact which Cllr Woodward had with officers over this application (which then continued with the Solent Stars' application) was highly unusual. Cllr Woodward denies this but he does appear to have taken an unusually close interest in both the Rockets' and Solent Stars' applications.
135. The applications of both the Rockets and the Solent Stars related to the provision of a lorry for the team. Cllr Woodward told officers that he was taking his HGV licence when the application was being made and later showed a video to officers of him driving the Solent Stars' lorry (which was not funded by the Council). He was reluctant to answer my question when I asked him about this. His solicitors stated that this was because it was not relevant. In my view it was because it showed (in part at least) the true motive for his support for the application.
136. It was only very shortly before the decision was due to be made that Cllr Woodward notified officers that he would not be making the decision himself. He was not specific about the nature of his interest. He arranged for the decision to be made when he knew that he would still be the relevant executive member. He ensured that everything was lined up to give the very strong likelihood that the grant would be awarded. Cllr Heron had no reason to suspect any reason why it should not.
137. In my view, Cllr Woodward should not just have excluded himself from the formal decision to award the grant but should have taken no part in the application process. In fact, he was extremely active throughout the grant process both in supporting Ms A to complete the application, by pressing officers on progress and bringing forward the decision day. He may not have made the application but he was instrumental in ensuring that the decision to award the grant was made.

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138. In acting as he did, Cllr Woodward was influenced by his relationship with Ms A. This amounted to a failure on his part to act “fairly, appropriately and impartially” as required by paragraph 3.2 of the Code. He was certainly not impartial regarding the application.
139. In acting as he did, Cllr Woodward also allowed other pressures, namely the interests of himself (in wanting to utilise his HGV licence) and others connected to him (Ms A), to deter him from pursuing the good governance of the County Council in a proper manner. It may be that had he taken no part in the application process it would have been awarded in any event but he sought to push it through the process despite his personal interest in it which was entirely contrary to principles of good governance. This was a failure to comply with paragraph 3.3 of the Code.
140. In failing to be clear at the outset exactly what his interest in the application was, Cllr Woodward failed to exercise independent judgement and placed himself under obligations to Ms A and the Rockets (and subsequently Solent Stars) thus failing to comply with paragraph 3.4 of the Code.
141. In failing to declare his interest in the application at the earliest possible stage and fully set out what his interest was, Cllr Woodward failed to contribute to making the Council’s decision making as open and transparent as possible thereby failing to comply with paragraph 3.7 of the Code.
142. The process for Cllr Woodward declaring his interest in accordance with Part 5 of the Code at the decision day is unclear. In my view he should have clearly declared his interest and left the room when the decision was made. However, given the lack of clarity on this issue I do not find that there was a failure to comply with the Code on his part in respect of this.
143. Cllr Woodward states that he would be grateful if I confirm in the report that there is no failure to comply with the Code in respect of the applications for £2,000 grants. This is already in the report (and was in the draft report) at paragraph 156.

Comments on the Draft Report

144. In accordance with the Council's procedures I gave Cllr Woodward, Mr Collier and Mr Morris the opportunity to read my draft report. Mr Collier and Mr Morris indicated that they did not have any comments on the draft report.

145. Cllr Woodward submitted comments and further evidence (SG14). These and my responses are considered below.

146. Cllr Woodward makes a comment about the changing of the decision day. He states that he asked for it to be changed in April 2019 and so there was no change of leader of the Council then. He also states that he checked his diary and he attended a Royal Naval gliding course on 23 May 2019 which was the day which was originally proposed for the decision day. Cllr Woodward states that he arranged for the day to be changed because he had another engagement.

147. Cllr Woodward also stated that the new leader appointed his cabinet on 17 May not 7 May 2019, therefore, he states that the date of 7 May had no significance.

148. I have considered these points carefully. They do not alter my findings on this point. Cllr Woodward asked for the decision day to be brought forward to April because there were grant applications he wanted to consider. He did not give a reason. He has not stated when he was asked to attend the other event but if that was the only reason to alter the decision day why did he ask that the day be brought forward to April? It could have been moved to a later date rather than him asking it to be brought forward by nearly a month. Although the Leader was confirmed by full Council the decision to appoint Cllr Mans as leader of the conservative group was reported in the local press on 7 May 2019, the press reports highlighted the de facto position that in being appointed as leader of the controlling group Cllr Mans effectively confirmed that he would be elected as leader of the Council which would be confirmed at the annual meeting on 17 May 2019. The key points are as follows:

- a. the date of the AGM on 17 May 2019 was before the originally scheduled Recreation and Heritage decision day on 23 May 2019;
- b. Cllr Woodward requested the meeting be brought forward and to April, well before any change of leader and portfolio holder changes could be made;
- c. Although the meeting could not be in April, it was proposed for 10 May which was before any change of Leader could take place;

The contents of this report and any accompanying documents are confidential and must not be disclosed.

- d. Whilst some details of the evidence of others maybe unclear or inaccurate the thrust of what they allege is supported by the evidence; and
- e. In my view it is highly unlikely, indeed incredible, that the complainants could have made up this story about the moving of the decision date which so clearly fitted the facts of what actually happened.

149. In my view the evidence that Cllr Woodward sought to move the date to ensure it was heard when he remained the cabinet member for that portfolio remain compelling. It would be an incredible coincidence that Mr Collier and Mr Morris made up this story about what they were told which happened to match Cllr Woodward's actions and Cllr Woodward specifically asked for the grant application which he had an interest in to be brought forward.

150. Cllr Woodward also states that he was not in the room at the time the decision was made. The evidence I was provided with was that he did remain in the room. There is some uncertainty about the circumstances of the decision and the decision record is not clear on this point. Whether he stayed in the room was not a significant factor in reaching the conclusions which I did. The main concern was the overall involvement of Cllr Woodward in the application process. I also had not found that Cllr Woodward failed to comply with Part 5 of the Code in any event.

151. In the draft complaint there was an inconsistency of the wording regarding my findings in respect of Part 5 of the Code and this has been corrected in the final report to make clear that my finding is that there was no failure to comply with Part 5 by Cllr Woodward.

152. Cllr Woodward highlighted a number of disagreements which he had with the evidence of others. I have carefully considered these but none of them add anything to the evidence which I already considered.

153. Cllr Woodward states that he set out his interest in the Rockets application in February 2019. He provided me with a copy of a spreadsheet but that spreadsheet was not dated. This does not affect my findings. The main point being that he should not have had anything to do with the application given the interest which he had. He was involved in every step of the process apart from the actual decision at which point it was very unlikely that Cllr Heron would look behind the information in any detail.

154. Cllr Woodward seeks to hide behind the fact that it was an officer's recommendation for approval. However, the officers did not have all of the

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relevant information. They did not know the extent of his involvement with the Rockets or in the grant application.

155. Cllr Woodward also makes comments on my reasoning in considering that there has been a breach of the Code. He states that in respect of paragraph 3.2 of the Code he does not see how a grant application can be a “representation or inquiry.” The word representation has a broad meaning when used as a noun and can be described as “a description or statement, as of things true or alleged...” Therefore, the contents of any grant application will include representations to the Council. Given Cllr Woodward’s acknowledged interest he should not have involved himself at all in the application.
156. Cllr Woodward states that there was no breach of paragraph 3.3 of the Code because he was not influenced by his financial interests or of others. However, paragraph 3.3 is not limited to merely financial interests it refers to “pressures, including financial interests...” I have set out the external pressures which I believe influenced Cllr Woodward inappropriately.
157. I accept that Cllr Woodward did identify that he had an interest at an earlier stage. However, he did not state what that was in any detail and he provided considerable support to the application both through supporting the applicant to complete the application and in pressurising officers to progress the application and in bringing forward the decision date. In my view this still clearly amounts to a failure to contribute to making the Council’s decision making fully open and transparent.

Other comments

158. Cllr Woodward states that his refusal to answer my questions was not a refusal but merely because he did not believe that they were relevant. The fact that he was obtaining his HGV licence at the time the grant applications to the Council by the Rockets and the Solent Stars to obtain an HGV licence for lorry and he actually drove the Solent Stars lorry on at least one occasion (albeit that it was funded via another source) is clearly relevant to the issues being investigated and I find the suggestion by Cllr Woodward that he did not see the relevance highly implausible.
159. Cllr Woodward also makes a number of comments about lack of training on the Code. He is an experienced Councillor, a Cabinet Member of the Council and a leader of another authority. It is his personal responsibility to understand and abide by the Code.

The contents of this report and any accompanying documents are confidential and must not be disclosed.

Finding

160. My finding is that there **has been a failure** on the part of Cllr Woodward to comply with paragraphs 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.7 of the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of his involvement in the grant application in respect of the £15,000 grant application by the Rockets; and

161. I am sending a copy of this report to Barbara Beardwell, the Council's Monitoring Officer.

**Simon Goacher, Partner
Weightmans LLP**

10 September 2020

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Schedule of evidence

SG1	Hampshire County Council Code of Conduct for Members
SG2	Record of interview of Russell Collier
SG3	Record of interview of Jason Morris
SG4	Record of Interview of Felicity Roe
SG5	Record of Interview of Cllr Heron
SG6	Record of interview of Cllr Evans
SG7	Record of interview of Cllr Woodward
SG8	Complaints
SG9	Executive Decision Record
SG10	File note of conversation between Barbara Beardwell and Cllr Woodward
SG11	Correspondence with Cllr Woodward's solicitors
SG12	Note and chronology prepared by the Assistant Director
SG13	Emails provided by Ms Roe
SG14	Comments on the draft report submitted by Cllr Woodward together with additional evidence

The contents of this report and any accompanying documents are confidential and must not be disclosed.

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 1

Part 4

Codes and protocols

Appendix A – Code of Conduct for Members

Part 1: General Provisions and Interpretation

1. Introduction

This Code of Conduct is adopted by the County Council pursuant to its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council. This Code applies to all Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council.

This Code is based on and is consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership as referred to in the Localism Act 2011.

In the interests of transparency and openness, and in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, a copy of the Register of Members' Interests is published on the County Council's website, and is available for public inspection at the County Council's offices at all reasonable hours.

2. Scope

This Code applies to all Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council when acting in their official capacity, or when giving the impression that they are acting as a representative of the County Council.

Where a Member or Co-opted Member is a member of more than one local authority, but acting on behalf of the County Council, such Member or Co-opted Member is, for the avoidance of doubt, bound by this Code of Conduct.

3. General obligations of Members and Co-opted Members

As a Member of Hampshire County Council, your conduct will address the principles of the Code of Conduct by:

- 3.1 Representing the needs of residents, and putting their interests first.

- 3.2 Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of communities within the administrative area of Hampshire County Council and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.
- 3.3 Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the County Council's area, or the good governance of the County Council in a proper manner.
- 3.4 Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by placing yourself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way you perform your duties.
- 3.5 Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers of the County Council, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
- 3.6 Being accountable for your decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally.
- 3.7 Contributing to making the County Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible.
- 3.8 Restricting access to information when the wider public interest, the County Council's Constitution, or the law requires it.
- 3.9 Behaving in accordance with all the County Council's legal obligations, the County Council's policies, protocols and procedures.
- 3.10 Ensuring that when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the County Council that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes.
- 3.11 Having regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986 or otherwise.
- 3.12 Not knowingly doing anything which might cause the County Council to breach any legislation.
- 3.13 Valuing your colleagues and Officers of the County Council and engaging with them in an appropriate manner.
- 3.14 Always treating all people and organisations with respect and propriety.
- 3.15 Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles.

Part 2: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

1. Introduction

A disclosable pecuniary interest is an interest falling within the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below of:

- 1.1 Yourself; or
- 1.2 Your spouse or civil partner, or someone you are living with as if you were husband and wife or civil partners, where you are aware that that other person has the interest.

2. Interpretation

In the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below, the following words or expressions mean as follows:

- 2.1 'the Act' means the Localism Act 2011;
- 2.2 'body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest' means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;
- 2.3 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;
- 2.4 'land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;
- 2.5 'M' means a member of a relevant authority;
- 2.6 'member' includes a co-opted member;
- 2.7 'relevant authority' means Hampshire County Council of which M is a member;
- 2.8 'relevant period' means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives a notification for the purposes of Section 30(1) or Section 31(7), as the case may be, of the Act;
- 2.9 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (2000 c. 8) and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

3. Schedule of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (1992 c. 52).
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority: (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge): (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where: (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and

	<p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>
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Part 3: Registration and Disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

1. Obligations

- 1.1 You must, within 28 days of taking office as a Member or Co-opted Member of the County Council, notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State (as set out at Part 2 of this Code), where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.
- 1.2 You must also, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new disclosable pecuniary interest, or change thereto, notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of such new or changed interest.
- 1.3 If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest included on the Register of Members' Interests, you must disclose this interest at any meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive at which you are present and participating in the business. Such interest should be disclosed at the commencement of consideration of the business or when the interest becomes apparent. You do not need to disclose details of the interest itself.
- 1.4 If a disclosable pecuniary interest has not been entered onto the County Council's Register of Interests, then you must also disclose the interest to any meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive at which you are present where you have such an interest in any matter being considered. Such interest should be disclosed at the commencement of consideration of the business or when the interest becomes apparent. You do not need to disclose details of the interest itself. Following disclosure of a disclosable pecuniary interest not on the County Council's Register or the

subject of pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of such interest within 28 days, beginning with the date of disclosure.

- 1.5 Unless a dispensation has been granted by the County Council, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest. You must as soon as it becomes apparent that you have such an interest (save for in circumstances set out at Paragraph 1.6 below) withdraw from the chamber or room where the meeting considering the business is being held, and must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business. If acting as a single Executive Member you may not take any further steps in relation to the matter other than for the purpose of arranging for the matter to be dealt with otherwise than by yourself.
- 1.6 Without prejudice to Paragraph 1.5 above where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the County Council (including any meeting of a Select Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the County Council) you may, notwithstanding such disclosable pecuniary interest, attend such meeting for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to such business, provided members of the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Part 4: Registration of Gifts and Hospitality

- 1 You must, within 28 days of receipt, notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of any gift or hospitality you receive, if such gift or hospitality has an estimated value of at least £50.

Part 5: Registration and Disclosure of Personal Interests

1. Without prejudice to requirements contained at Part 3 of this Code in respect of the Registration and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests, you may in addition notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of any Personal Interests you consider it appropriate to be entered on the Register of Members' Interests.
2. You have a "personal interest" in an item of business where it relates to or is likely to affect any of the following bodies of which you are a member: a public or charitable body, any body to which you have been appointed by the authority, any political party, trade union or other body one of whose principal purposes is to influence public opinion or policy.
3. You also have a "personal interest" in an item of business where a decision in relation to it might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or person with whom you have a close association, more than other council tax

payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the authority's area.

4. You shall disclose a "personal interest" at a meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive, where you consider that interest to be relevant to an item of business being considered at that meeting. The disclosure shall be made at the commencement of the meeting, or when the interest becomes apparent, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
5. Disclosure of a personal interest does not affect your ability to participate in discussion or vote on the relevant item, provided it is not also a disclosable pecuniary interest. If you consider, having taken advice in appropriate circumstances, you should not participate in the business being considered, you should leave the chamber or room where the business is being considered, after exercising any right to speak which a member of the public would have.

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 2

Ref: W112705/2

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Russell Collier, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Russell Collier ("RC") confirmed that he had made a complaint against Cllr Woodward ("SW") of Hampshire Council ("the Council"). RC confirmed that the complaint was accurate to the best of his knowledge and he wished the complaint to be pursued
- 4 RC explained that he first became aware of SW through The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets").
- 5 RC explained that the Rockets applied for grants from the Council and from Fareham Borough Council ("FBC"). RC stated that the grant application to the Council was for £15,000 to be matched by FBC. He stated that the limit for such grants had been raised by FBC from £5,000 to £15,000. RC stated that all of the information which he had about the grant application came from SW and [REDACTED].
- 6 RC stated that he was told by [REDACTED] and SW that the decision by the Council about the grant had been brought forward. He stated that this was in around May/April 2019. He stated that the new leader of the Council had been due to appoint a new cabinet at 10.00am on a day so the decision on the grant had been brought forward to 9.30 in case SW was replaced as the cabinet member. RC stated that he was told this by SW and [REDACTED] before the meeting to take the decision had taken place. RC stated that he could not remember the specific date when the conversation had taken place and he had nothing in writing about it.
- 7 RC stated that SW had turned up at every training event, show and events for the Rockets.
- 8 SG asked RC about a comment in the complaint about texts which he said Jason Morris ("JM") had told him about which [REDACTED] had sent to him about SW "being creepy". RC stated that he had not seen the texts himself but had been told by JM about them. RC stated that he had himself witnessed SW being very creepy towards [REDACTED] – being very touchy feely. He said that [REDACTED] had been constantly calling him about it but then had also said that SW was not that bad. He stated that [REDACTED] had said that she just needed to keep SW on a short reign and that he would be very useful. RC stated that he got the impression that SW was stalking [REDACTED] and he was worried about her.
- 9 RC stated that for example a car crashed outside [REDACTED] house and SW called her to say that he happened to be in the area when it happened. RC stated that SW lives about 5–6 miles away from [REDACTED] which is about a 20–25 minute journey.
- 10 RC stated that he and JM raised their concerns with [REDACTED] but it was all very tongue in cheek as they were friends and got on well. He explained that they had set up the Rockets together. [REDACTED] He stated

that ■ was influenced by SW's power and status. RC stated that ■ was closer to JM. He said that both ■ and JM had said to him that SW was obsessed with ■.

11 [REDACTED]

12 RC stated that SW also kept ringing chief inspector ■ of Hampshire Police. RC stated that ■ had told him that he had told SW to leave him alone because SW was always asking him for favours. RC stated that SW thought ■ was his borough commander but he is not. RC stated that during the altercation near ■ home which had led to complaints to Hampshire Police SW had told RC that he was on the phone to his borough commander.

13 RC stated that he had just wanted all of this to go away but SW was pursuing them and interfering with his life. He stated that SW had got him placed on directed duties.

14 [REDACTED]

15 SG asked RC about the statement in the complaint that SW had written up and signed off the grants himself. RC stated that ■ had told them that. He stated that they did not know about these grants but SW told them about it. RC stated that ■ asked SW how to do it. RC explained that when they did an audit there were emails back and forward between ■ and SW about the application. RC stated that one of the application was done in his name and ■ had told him that SW had approved it.

16 RC stated there was a grant which had been given to them of £2,000 for grants. He stated that SW had been told that they no longer needed the ramps and SW had told them that as long as they spent it on other things for the Rockets they could do so. He stated that they sent it on clothing for the children. RC stated that SW told them that they could do it but when they fell out he complained about it. He stated that he assumed that it was ■ or SW who had complained about it. RC stated that they had been told this by SW before they received the grant. RC stated that he had nothing in writing about this. RC stated that the Council was now threatening the Rockets with legal action to recover the grant.

17 RC stated that the £15,000 grant was also stopped by the Council. He stated that they asked the Council why it had been stopped. He stated that they were told that FBC had stopped their grant so the Council had stopped theirs too.

18 RC stated that ■ tried to get a grant for her new team as she had a grand plan to buy a lorry. He stated that eventually she realised it would look bad so withdrew the application but the lorry was bought using sponsorship money instead.

19 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
20 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.
Also members

Signed.....R A Collier
Russell Collier

Dated...20/03/2020.....

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 3

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Jason Morris, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Jason Morris ("JM") confirmed that he had made a complaint against Cllr Woodward ("SW") of Hampshire Council ("the Council"). JM confirmed that the complaint was accurate to the best of his knowledge and he wished the complaint to be pursued
- 4 SG asked JM about a comment in his complaint that SW managed to secure two training grounds for The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets"). JM stated that this did not seem out of place at the time it was in the early days of SW's involvement. He stated that the first site was Knowle Village field which was great at the time and he understood it belonged to a local developer who subsequently obtained planning permission to build on the site. He stated that the Rockets subsequently moved. JM stated that he had no specific information to suggest that there was anything untoward in this.
- 5 JM stated that SW gave a grant of £2,000 to the Rockets from his personal grant. He stated that this was allocated to buy some ramps. He stated that he said to ██████████ ██████████ that they were getting the ramps free from SEMMCO as part of sponsorship. He said that ██████████ said that she would talk to SW about it. He stated that ██████████ told him that SW had said it was ok and they would put it down as being used for ramps but as long as they used it for the team that was fine. JM stated that this did not sit well with him and he told ██████████ it would come back to bite them but ██████████ said that SW had said it was fine.
- 6 JM stated that this had now come back to bite them. He explained that a complaint had been made to the Council that the money had not been used for the purpose it had been granted. He stated that he assumed that the complaint had been made to the Council about this, he assumed by ██████████ or SW. He stated that the Council had asked for the money back. JM stated that ██████████ did all the accounts for this. He said that ██████████ had completed the application for this grant with help from SW.
- 7 SG asked JM about the comment in his complaint that SW had completed the grant application for the £15,000 grant, how did he know that? He said that ██████████ had said to him that SW had done the application. He stated that they also applied for a grant of £15,000 from Fareham Borough Council ("FBC"). He stated that FBC had increased the level of the grant from £5,000 to £15,000. JM stated that all of the information he had about the grant application came from ██████████. He stated that it was ██████████ who told him that SW had written the application.
- 8 JM stated that at that time ██████████ did not want the same out of the relationship with SW as SW did. He stated that one day he received a telephone call from ██████████ asking him if he would go round to her house because SW was there and would not leave and was getting touchy feely. He stated that the call was at 9.30pm and he went to ██████████ house. JM stated that his wife was not very happy when he told her what was happening. He

stated that he went to [redacted]'s house and made an excuse for being there and SW left. He stated that [redacted] thanked him and said that SW had been getting full on. He stated that he left straight afterwards.

9 [redacted] [redacted]. JM stated that [redacted] told him that she knew what she was doing, she would get the grant sorted [redacted].

10 JM stated that he received a couple of texts from [redacted] stating that SW was being creepy. JM stated that he no longer had those texts. JM explained that when [redacted] left the Rockets he deleted all her texts and social media.

11 JM stated that [redacted] got into a panic about getting the grant. He explained that [redacted] told him that the executive leadership of the Council was due to change at 10.00am on a particular day and the leader could choose to replace SW and he might not be in a position to sign off the grant. JM stated that he had an email from the Council saying when the grant would be being discussed which he would send SG.

12 JM stated that all the information which he had about the grant came from [redacted], he had not had any direct discussions with SW. JM stated that he had not had much direct contact with SW apart from him coming to the Rockets' events.

13 JM stated that he had challenged SW about driving a mazda car which he had obtained through sponsorship. He stated that SW had told him that he was insured. JM stated that he checked with mazda who told him that SW was not insured. JM stated that when he told SW this SW said that he was insured through the Council's insurance.

14 [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

15 JM stated that the grants were pulled away. He stated that they were not told much. He stated that they suspected that [redacted] had taken the grants over to the new outfit she had set up. He said they found out that she had withdrawn her applications for grants but had been given a very large grant upwards of £30,000 from a local developer.

16 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
23 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Signed.....Jason Morris
Jason Morris

Dated.....

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 4

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Felicity Roe, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Felicity Roe ("FR") confirmed that she was employed by Hampshire Council ("the Council") as its Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services. She explained that she has been in post since December 2018. She stated that Cllr Woodward ("SW") is the cabinet member for some of her services.
- 4 FR explained that each Council member has a budget of £8,000 per year for local grants. She stated that payments out of these budgets are approved by the members themselves and administered by member services.
- 5 FR stated that her directorate oversees the Recreation and Community Heritage Fund grants. She stated that part of her department's budget is set aside for these grants. She explained that the grants are administered in accordance with criteria and applications are made online. She stated that administrative staff vet all applications and then if they meet the criteria put them to SW as the cabinet member to approve. She explained that there will be a report to SW which will either recommend the grant for approval or if it is not recommended for approval set out the reasons why.
- 6 FR stated that SW's decisions are published. She stated that there is usually one report with a fairly long appendix with details of all of the grants.
- 7 FR explained that [REDACTED] who works in her team had produced a note setting out the chronology and actions in relation to the grant applications made by The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets") and the Solent Stars Motorcycle Display Team ("Solent Stars"). She stated that she had limited direct involvement with SW over the grants and most of the discussions or emails had been with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] another officer in her department.
- 8 FR stated that SW became the cabinet member in May 2018. She stated that he spoke to [REDACTED] some time afterwards about how funding worked. He wanted to change the system of funding and to widen the criteria. She stated that the system was changed in accordance with SW's wishes in January 2019.
- 9 FR stated that there were two conversations between SW and [REDACTED] in the lead up to the decision in January 2019. She explained that there were no notes of the discussions but [REDACTED] recalled them. FR explained that SW had told [REDACTED] that there was a grant by a motorcycle club coming up.
- 10 FR stated that immediately after the changes to the grant scheme were approved on 14 January 2019 SW talked to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] about his preferred approach to the new grants and specifically mentioned a grant of £15,000 towards the costs of a lorry for a children's motorcycle team.

- 11 FR stated that on 19 March 2019 SW had emailed ■, on behalf of the Rockets, stating that after partially completing the application form they had lost it.
- 12 FR stated that there were then a further 8 emails between SW and ■ about issues to do with the grant application. FR stated that in one of the emails SW asked when the grant application would come to him for a decision and ■ replied hopefully the decision day in May 2019.
- 13 FR stated that the application by the Rockets was submitted in March 2019 but it lacked detail and ■ requested more information.
- 14 FR stated that throughout March and April 2019 SW spoke to her about getting his HGV driver's licence.
- 15 FR stated that SW had telephoned ■ to ask the May decision day to be moved. She stated that there was no written record of the conversation but an email from ■ to FR confirmed that ■ had asked for the day to be moved.
- 16 FR stated that ■, an officer in the Council's democratic services team, emailed SW on 17 April 2019 stating that it was not possible to bring the decision day forward to April and suggested 7 May 2019 in the afternoon. FR stated that SW responded saying yes to 7 May 2019 but saying he wanted the decision day to be in the morning.
- 17 FR explained at the time the Council was in the process of selecting a new leader as the previous leader had retired. She explained that the new leader was due to be appointed by the Council on the afternoon of 7 May 2019. She stated that the new leader would then appoint their cabinet, so SW might not have been the cabinet member after that.
- 18 FR stated that SW said that he had an interest and asked Cllr Heron ("EH") to make the decision on the grant application.
- 19 In response to a question on whether SW left the room whilst EH made the decision, Felicity stated that he did not leave the room, but that leaving the room would NOT be a normal process within the County Council decision making. She stated that she did not know whether there had been any discussion about the application between Cllr Woodward and Cllr Heron.
- 20 FR stated that the officer recommendation was to approve the application. She stated that they felt under pressure with the application. She stated that the number of emails from SW on this application was very unusual. She stated that she was in no doubt that the moving of the decision day was due to the Rockets grant application. She stated that this was very unusual.
- 21 FR stated that the grant was approved and an email was sent to the Rockets on 7 May 2019 confirming this which was followed by a formal offer letter on 21 May 2019. She stated that Russel Collier signed the letter on behalf of the Rockets on 22 May 2019 and returned the completed BACS form.
- 22 FR stated that on 14 May 2019 SW telephoned ■ to say that one of the directors, ■, had left the Rockets and had set up a separate CIC and all contracts

were to be novated to the new organisation. SW asked if the Council could transfer the grant to the new organisation and said that Fareham Borough Council ("FBC") would be transferring its grant. FR stated that ■ asked ■ for more details which ■ provided on 17 June 2019. FR stated that ■ then spoke to David Kelly ("DK"), the head of legal services about the situation. FR stated that on 18 June 2019 the Council received a letter from solicitors on behalf of two of the three directors of the Rockets stating that the grant should go to the Rockets and not ■'s new company.

- 23 FR stated that on 18 June 2019 EH received an email from a director of the ■ Children's Motorcycle Display Team asking why the Rockets had been awarded £15,000 which was giving them an advantage over other similar organisations.
- 24 FR stated that on 19 June 2019 SW telephoned ■ and said that he did not want the grant to be paid to either organisation. He stated that FBC had also received a letter from a solicitor and would not be giving a grant. FR stated that SW also told ■ that he had been witness to an assault which was being investigated by the police.
- 25 FR stated that on 19 June 2019 ■ emailed SW asking for details of the assault which he provided.
- 26 FR stated that on 19 June 2019 SW emailed ■ to say that FBC had cancelled their grant application for the Rockets. She stated that ■ received an email from FBC confirming this later that day.
- 27 FR stated that on 4 July 2019 the Council's legal department sent out a letter to the Rockets confirming no grant would be paid.
- 28 FR stated that ■ made a fresh application on behalf of Solent Stars to the Council on 2 October 2019. FR stated that a considerable amount of information was missing. She stated that on the same date as the grant was submitted SW also telephoned ■ saying that he was keen for a decision to be made as soon as possible. FR stated that there was no written record of that telephone conversation. FR stated that the officers concerned had never previously experienced a member of the Council put as much pressure on in relation to a grant application.
- 29 FR stated that ■ emailed SW on 22 October 2019 at 11.17 am and advised him that the advice of the legal department was that the grant should not be awarded. She stated that at 11.25am SW telephoned ■ to ask why the application was not eligible for a grant when FBC was awarding one. FR stated that ■ told SW that a complaint had been made to EH, that the Council only had one quote for the work and that the majority of the application was now mostly for the fit out as the vehicle had been bought and this was not really within the grant criteria.
- 30 FR stated that on that same day ■ telephoned DK. FR stated that 11.40am SW telephoned ■ and told her that he had spoken to Barbara Beardwell, the Council's head of law and governance, who had said she was looking at it in more detail. FR stated that SW explained to ■ that the fit out costs were due to conditions laid down by The Showman's Guild.
- 31 FR stated that on 24 October 2019 ■ sent the Council further information about the Showman's Guild.

- 32 FR stated that in early November 2019 the Council's grants team advised ■ that it had not been able to process the Solent Stars grant application in time for the November decision day.
- 33 FR stated that on 21 November 2019 ■ emailed the Council to withdraw the grant application and they had, "many new recruits and a number of show bookings for 2020" which meant that they could pay for the lorry to be fitted out.
- 34 FR stated that SW never said that he had any interest in the Solent Stars grant application but she had no doubt that he would have declared an interest and would not have made the decision had it proceeded. She stated that SW had showed a member of staff at the Council a video of him driving the Solent Stars lorry.
- 35 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
19 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Also members

Signed.....
Felicity Roe

Dated.....2nd June 2020.....

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 5

Ref: W112705/2

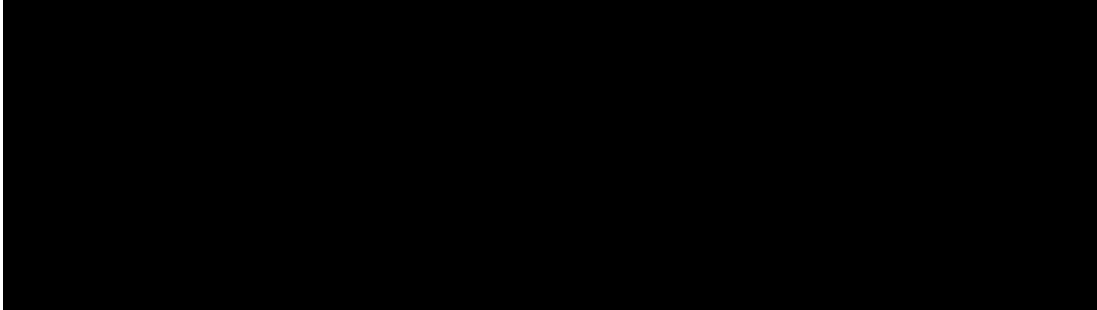
Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Cllr Edward Heron, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Cllr Heron ("EH") confirmed that he is a member of Hampshire Council ("the Council") He explained that he has been a member for approximately 12 years. He explained that he has been a member of the executive member for just over a year.
- 4 EH explained that executive members make a lot of decisions in their roles. He stated that he has done quite a few of them for other members, it is not common but not that unusual either.
- 5 He stated that if an executive member has an interest they go to the leader of the Council and he agrees that a decision can be made by another executive member. He stated that he is often in the Council's offices on decision days so can make a decision for others.
- 6 EH stated that as far as he could recall Cllr Woodward ("SW") did not discuss with him what his interest was in the application by the Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets"). He stated that he still did not know what SW's interest was. He said that either the application would be considered at his own decision day though it used to be more common that he would attend SW's decision day and take over for that item.
- 7 EH stated that this application might have been the first he did for another member, it was certainly the first for SW. He stated that he always asks officers if they have anything to add to their reports on such applications.
- 8 SG asked EH if SW left the room whilst he considered the application by the Rockets. EH stated that he did not think that SW did leave the room. EH stated that he approved the decision. He stated that he probably stayed for the rest of the meeting, he explained that decision day meetings are not usually that long.
- 9 EH stated that he had not had any discussions with SW about the application since the meeting. He stated that he had received an email on 17 June 2019 from a gentleman inquiring why the grant to the Rockets had been made. He stated that he referred the letter to the director for a response. He stated that he had also been copied in to an email from the Council saying that the grant would not be paid.
- 10 EH stated that there was no discussion of the details of the application and SW did not raise any issues. EH stated that he would have assumed that SW and the director would not have any issues with the application if it was coming to decision day. EH stated that he would have raised concerns if he had any. He stated that SW never discussed the application with him and never placed any pressure on him to reach a particular decision.

11 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP



Cllr Edward I



Dated 24th March 2020

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 6

Ref: W112705/2

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Cllr Keith Evans, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Cllr Evans ("KE") confirmed that he is a member of Hampshire Council ("the Council") He explained that he has been a member for approximately 14 years.
- 4 KE stated that if a councillor feels that they have an interest in an application to them for a grant from their budget then they can ask another councillor to endorse their decision. KE stated that Cllr Woodward ("SW") had asked him on one or two occasions if he would look at an application.
- 5 SG asked KE about an application for a grant by the Rockets Motorcycle Display Team. KE stated that SW had asked him to look at it because he had an interest but he did not know what that interest was. He stated that he just looked at, whether it was reasonable and if he would agree to it. He stated that he looked at it in exactly the same way as he would an application he had received in his own area.
- 6 KE stated that SW emailed him asking if he would look at the application. He stated that SW did not tell him what his interest was and he did not ask.
- 7 KE explained that the system is online, he did not see anything on paper. He stated that he sent back a message to SW saying that he was happy with the application. He stated that as he was only counter signing it he would not hear the outcome.
- 8 KE stated that he had no concerns about the application. He explained that there are two types of applications depending on financial levels for the higher amounts more data is required. He stated that the onus is on the applicant to provide the information. He stated that it is a quick process and if it is approved the officers process the payments unless they have any concerns.
- 9 KE stated that he had not discussed the grant with SW since it was made.
- 10 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
23 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Signed.....
Cllr Keith Evans

Dated.....

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 7

Complaint about Councillor Seán Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Cllr Seán Woodward, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Cllr Woodward ("SW") confirmed that he is a member of Hampshire Council ("the Council"). He explained that he has been a member for approximately 15 years. He explained that he has been the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage since May 2018 and had previously been the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment between 2013 and 2016.
- 4 SW confirmed that he had received no training that he could recall on the code of conduct in his role as a member of Hampshire County Council ("HCC"). He explained that as well as being a member of the Council he is also the leader of Fareham Borough Council ("FBC"). He confirmed that he understood the requirement to comply with the code of conduct whilst acting as a councillor.
- 5 SG explained that he had been asked by the Council's monitoring officer to investigate complaints which had been made about SW's role in the applications by the Rockets Motorcycle Display Team Community Interest Company ("the Rockets") to the Council for grants. SW stated that the complainants had made complaints to the Council and also to the Conservative Party and FBC. He stated that all the other complaints had been rejected with the conclusion that there had been no breach of the code of conduct. There had also been a complaint to the police which similarly was not upheld. He stated that he believed that letters had gone out to the complainants in the last few days from FBC informing them that their complaints were not upheld and there had been no breach of the FBC code of conduct.
- 6 SW stated that he first heard from the Rockets in July 2018. He explained that one of the complainants, Jason Morris ("JM") came to see him together with another director of the Rockets, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He stated that they contacted him as they were not going to be able to stay on their training site in Millbrook and asked for his help. He stated that he found a field in Knowle for them and when he contacted [REDACTED] to tell her she was delighted. SW stated that he had never heard of the Rockets or met any of them before this. The other complainant, Russell Collier ("RC") was not present at the meeting.
- 7 SW stated that in October 2018 [REDACTED] contacted him again and asked if he would like to go and watch one of the Rockets training sessions and to present the trophies at their award ceremony. SW stated that he was impressed by what he saw when he attended with his son. He stated that the Rockets had 12 or more youngsters and families involved in a wholesome activity. He stated that they told him that they wanted to build the team and get more equipment and some transport for moving the equipment.

- 8 SW stated that in January 2019 a grant application was made to the Council. He explained that each councillor has £8,000 available to make grants to organisations in their area.
- 9 SW stated that he had been very impressed with ■ as an individual. He stated that they are always looking for candidates to stand in local elections. He stated that he went to see her in November 2018 to talk with her about the possibility of becoming a councillor. She agreed to think about it.
- 10 SW explained that ■ was also involved in marketing and the healthcare company he owns a 50% share in was looking for a marketing assistant. He stated that ■ began working for the company. He stated that he is not involved in the day to day management of the company. He stated that the grant application from the Rockets came in just after the time ■ had started to work for the company.
- 11 SW stated that he thought that as ■ was now working for the company he owned he should not agree the grant and so contacted Cllr Keith Evans ("KE") who is a councillor for an adjacent area to him. He explained that it was an online process and he asked KE if he would look at it. He explained that the first time he tried to do it he had not done it properly. He stated that 2 weeks later he contacted an officer, David Foley ("DF"), and said that the grant application did not seem to have found its way to KE. SW explained that DF contacted KE and the grant was approved and paid. He stated that this was in February 2019 and the complaint was not made until October 2019.
- 12 SW stated that the grant was for the Rockets to buy ramps. He stated that he subsequently found out in RC's complaint a claim that the ramps had been provided for free. He said that he had formally made a complaint to investigate that as it had not been used for what the grant was paid for. SG asked SW about a suggestion by the complainants that SW had said that they could use the grant for other purposes. SW stated that he absolutely did not say that it was a complete lie. SW stated that he was advised that SEMCO who had supplied the ramps had not been paid as they should have been. Half the order had been delivered and invoiced. RC and JM did not pay the bill so the other half of the order was not supplied.
- 13 SW stated that another project the Rockets were keen to pursue had been to get a lorry to transport the motorbikes. SW explained that they had an old lorry which was not in the best of order and they wanted to get a newer, larger one to take to show bookings around the country. He explained that he told them that if they raised money themselves they could apply to the Council for a grant.
- 14 SW stated that the grant application was in the name of RC who signed the grant funding agreement. He stated that he believed that ■ had done all the work on the application. He stated that they applied to the Council for £15,000, to FBC for £15,000 and were also going to work on raising £15,000 themselves. He stated that the grant came within his purview as Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage.
- 15 SW stated that the officer who administers the grant applications in the Council, ■, sends him a spreadsheet periodically with details of the grant applications. He stated that in April 2019 he sent the spreadsheet to ■ and filled in the section relating to the Rockets application confirming that he had an interest, that it should be conditional on them being a community interest company or charity and FBC matching support and that they would perform free shows locally and there would be community access to the group.

- 16 SG asked SW about the number of emails which he sent to officers about the application. He stated that he could only remember sending two emails. He stated that his contact with officers about the Rockets grant was not unusual. He stated that it depends on the grant and that he had many discussions with different organisations on grant applications including visiting them. He stated that he had tried to formalise things through using the spreadsheet for his comments.
- 17 SW stated that the Leader had approved that a different Executive Member should make the decision. He stated that in reality the officers arrange this and the Leader approves it. He stated that he and Cllr Heron ("EH") often have the same decision day date so it was logical that he be asked to make the decision.
- 18 SG asked SW why the decision day had been moved. SW stated that he did recall that the decision day was moved but he did not recall why. He stated that he may not have been able to make a suggested date and so needed to move it but he could not remember. SW stated that the decision days can be quite ad hoc with little notice of change and be moved around depending on the business to be decided. He stated that this happens with all Executive Members.
- 19 SW stated that the decision was made at a separate meeting not his meeting. He stated that EH made it at his decision day meeting.
- 20 SG asked SW about the allegation that he wrote the grant application. He stated that he did not but gave all the advice and support possible in the knowledge that he would not be making the decision. He often gave advice to grant applicants when asked in the same way that the officers writing the report would do. He stated that the main issue for the Rockets was saving the application which was lost at one point. He stated that he also gave a link to a generic business plan at one point. He stated that he cast his eye over the application and responded to a couple of queries that ■ raised with him. He stated that he did help ■ but the application was not going to be decided by him.
- 21 SG asked SW if he had any discussions with EH about the application. He stated that he simply explained to EH that he had decided that he would not make the decision as he had a personal interest but did not have any discussion about the application itself.
- 22 SW confirmed that he had contacted ■ when ■ left the Rockets and set up her own team as ■ had approached him to ask if the grant could be novated. SW stated that ■ suggested that ■ should write to her. He stated that ■ had contacted him and asked what she should do. He stated that he would find out an answer for her as any councillor would.
- 23 SG asked SW about what involvement he had in the application to the Council by the Solent Stars Community Interest Company for a grant. He stated that he knew that ■ had made an application which was probably identical to the previous application by the Rockets. He stated that ■ then withdrew it. He stated that he thought he had asked officers about the progress of the application as it had not appeared on his regular spreadsheet. He stated that he prefaced the enquiry by saying it was not a decision he would be involved in as he knew the applicant. ■ had advised he spoke to ■ who advised him to speak to Barbara Beardwell. They said the applicant needed to show how the grant would help the group as much of the funding was related to living accommodation. This related to obtaining Showman's Guild exemptions from

testing regimes. He passed that information back to [REDACTED] who subsequently wrote further to clarify. She then withdrew the application before it could be considered.

24 SG asked SW if [REDACTED] had attended Council functions with him. SW stated that [REDACTED] had been selected as a prospective candidate for FBC elections in May 2020 and he had taken her to a small number of events with him as his guest so she could understand the role better. SW stated that [REDACTED] had ceased working for his company in April 2019 so had only worked there for four months. He stated that he probably would not even have had an interest if the Solent Stars application had come to him as she would no longer have been an employee of his company though she was a friend so he still would not have taken the decision.

25 S [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

26 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

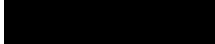
27 SG asked SW about his comment in his email to the Council's monitoring officer on 29 November 2019 that both complainants were, "under investigation via the Chief Constable and Professional Standards for corruption." SW stated that JM had stated that he had been a witness to the assault when he had not been within view of it and he and RC had concocted a story which was an attempt to pervert the course of justice. He stated that he was concerned because the monitoring officer had suggested that the complaints had to be taken seriously because they had been made by police officers. SW stated that he had an interview with someone from professional services about this a month or so previously and the person had said he would get back to him in a couple of weeks.

28 SW stated that he believed that the complaints were vexatious as he was sure they would not have been made if he had not been a witness to the assault. He stated that the grants which they were complaining of had been agreed many months before the complaints were made and in the event only the first grant for £2,000 had been paid. He had declared a personal interest in the grant and the Council's rules allow Members to both speak and vote on matters in which they have a personal interest. He had chosen to not only rightly declare his interest but to go even further than he needed to and not to make the actual decisions.

29 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
24 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Signed 
Cllr Sean Woodward

Dated 25th April 2020

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 8

Would you like to request that your identity is kept confidential? (optional): Yes

Title (required): Mr

First name (required): Russell

Last name (required): Collier

Address:

Address line 1 (optional)	Address line 2 (optional)	Address line 3 (optional)	Town / City (optional)	County (optional)	Postcode (optional)
[REDACTED]					

Phone number (optional): [REDACTED]

Email address (required): [REDACTED]

Please tell us which option best describes you (required): Member of the public

Gender (optional): [REDACTED]

Age (optional): [REDACTED]

Ethnic origin (optional): [REDACTED]

Name of Member(s) you are complaining about (required):

Member's name (required)
Sean Woodward

Details of your complaint (required): Having given this some thought it was always my intention to make a complaint about the conduct of Sean Woodward and [REDACTED] but owing to my own observations in how they conduct themselves I had/have reservations about the independence of this process. In fact I emailed the Standards officer at HCC asking for some reassurance before I made any complaint and to date I have never had this , confirming my fears.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conduct of Sean Woodward:

Myself , Jason Morris (also a serving Police Officer) and [REDACTED] set up a children's motorcycle display team called "The Team Green Rockets Childrens Motorcycle Display Team" ,

the Team Green part was owing to sponsorship from Kawasaki motors uk and this is their sponsorship logo. we all knew each other from being members of another children motorcycle display team "██████████" but got frustrated by the lack of inclusion to disadvantaged children and so broke away and set up a community interest company and registered this with the three of us as directors. (There was another director ██████████ but we removed her, looking back she knew what was going on and we took the wrong side influenced naively by ██████████ and Sean and removed her)

Things went from strength to strength and we had an extremely successful first year , attending various shows and local events such as D-Day75 in Fareham , HMS Sultans Family event and the same at HMS Collingwood, our team travel up and down the country and we are very proud of what has been achieved and the opportunity we give to the community.

██████████ did most of the admin , I tended to do the meetings with sponsors and any child protection stuff owing to my role as a police officer and deputy chair of the Governing body at ██████████ ██████████ where I am the safeguarding lead (The Head Teacher ██████████ would happily vouch for me here) , ██████████ and Jason would do a lot of the practical administration.

Sean woodward became involved in our club a number of months ago , ██████████ introduced him and he arranged for us to have Training ground free of charge on ██████████ land who was a local developer for free , followed by free parking and a container at Crofton riding stables for equipment again fro free (this is where Sean keeps his horses) . Jason and I raised concern several times that no one does this for free and we would end up in debt to Sean and involved in quite frankly what appeared to be his nepotism and corruption.

██████████ spoke to me and said he could be really helpful , he knows so many people and can get things done , she spoke about development on my land and eluded to her getting a cut of the money , she bought Sean up to my property whilst I was unaware and advised me after , she said he can sign of grants for us from a community fund and we could get a new lorry. She later advised that the committee could only approve £5k and so he as leader increased this to £15k

I and Jason stated that in our opinion he is after ██████████ and that she should distance herself. She ignored this and went on to say Fareham have approved £15k community grant for us but that Sean has been careful to stay out of it but he has been pulling strings and it will be approved. She went on that HCC would do £15k matched funding but this had to be rushed through as the committee that would be approving this was changing at 1000hrs on a certain day and Sean might not be on it so he rushed it through at 0930hrs.

In fact we have the emails between Seans personal email account and the Rockets back and forth between he and ██████████ where he writes the application for her.

He started turning up at training and shows we would be doing , pulling strings with base commanders at naval bases to ensure we were booked for the following year and various other stuff which I am sure I don't even know the half of.

[REDACTED]

He even happened to be outside her house when a car drove through her fence and he called her saying he witnessed it and not to worry he had made some calls and it was all getting mended asap

She then went to work for him , not sure in what capacity and then eventually worked at his company LB Healthcare in Whitely , she now works putting together the Conservative Fareham today leaflet.

Back In february [REDACTED] Jason and I met and I raised further concern that she was doing to much and she should allow the club to be run more by us and the parents it is after all a community club and should be run by volunteers and then she said she wanted to be paid instead , I said we would need to discuss this.

Fast forward a couple of months and [REDACTED] still maintains overall control of everything and won't allow Jason or I to do much at all.

We had a Mazda MX5 sponsored from Mazda UK as a car the children jumped , she retained this and Sean would use it , we said he was not insured but he would just say Fareham Borough council will underwrite it.

She then said she had left her job and wanted to concentrate on campaigning to be a councillor and attended many functions with Sean and he her , he even attended our end of year presentation at Hampshire Police HQ and gave out the trophies to the children. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There were various other things he would do such as advise us he would get rid of the competition "[REDACTED] motorcycle team" he gave them a written warning (they train on community space in Fareham) , he told us of every FOI request they made to the council and got someone in the council to flag anything from them to us , again a further [REDACTED] and a breach of data protection if

nothing else.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

She then gathered all the parents round and announced that Jason and I were not supporting her and so as of that day she had started a new company and transferred all the assets , equipment , sponsorship , grants and remaining show bookings to this company. We said she could not do that and advised everyone of her plan to pay herself a wage with the parents money.

As all the equipment was in the Lorry and the lorry was owned by Jason and I (as the club could not yet afford their own) I said in front of everyone there that we are going , she protested and wanted the equipment from our club out of the lorry but I refused and advised her I was going to work , I have never stolen anything in my life and not to turn up at my address as I was going to work but that I would call her the next day as I was day off and we would sort this all out.

We left , children were crying , parents thought the club was finished and even my own children were exhausted emotionally , I even felt like crying myself , at that point believing that with Sean she was untouchable and that she would just ride over us.

Within twenty minutes of arriving home Sean arrived in his capacity as a councillor as he had been all day driving the Mazda on loan to our club with [REDACTED] and she walked down the drive . We exchanged some words and I advised her to leave re confirming I would deal with it tomorrow and she advising she was here to take the equipment (equipment which did not belong to her) , anyway she left .

Jason then said we could just get her own motorcycle out of the lorry quickly it would not take long and then she would be happy . Seeing that she and Sean were still sat in the car outside I walked over and stood at the window and said we could get [REDACTED] (her sons) bike out for her but she said no I want the lot and so I explained as before to just go home then and we would sort this tomorrow.

A few minutes later she stormed down the drive at me and shoulder barged me and tried to get past , I said I would call the police and contemplated arresting her for assault but did not want the hassle I walked her towards the gate all the time she was trying to push past me and at the gate she paused and looked for a patch of grass a few feet away and dived onto this , she remained here for an1 hour and a quarter and Sean was still sat in the car and obstructed by my car and the trees.

Whilst on the floor she screamed Sean and he got out and rushed to her aid and screamed at me words such as "you have just beaten her up , you are supposed to be an officer of the law, I am on the phone to your borough commander" I did tell him that he never even saw it and he shouted that he did and he witnessed the lot.

[REDACTED]

I am happy to meet and discuss and welcome your honest thoughts here , I would also be happy and in fact encourage this to be raised with [REDACTED] and HCC as I believe this is so wrong , in every way but am concerned I am a small voice with limited background and alone I cannot possibly have the voice that is needed.

[REDACTED]

He was also out on the road at our motorcycle try out day for new recruits on Sunday just gone taking pictures and generally intimidating all the adults and children by doing so.

[REDACTED]

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss further and will comply with any investigation but please ask that the details of my complaint for now are not disclosed in detail to Sean Woodward as I am fearful of repercussions.

[REDACTED]

I am moving shortly as I am genuinely concerned about the influence he has and continues to display towards myself and my family but will be able to pick up emails and once assured it is being looked into will happily supply my address.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

Russell Collier

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint? (optional): full investigation and appropriate action to mitigate risk to all persons involved

Provide details of why you believe we should withhold your name and/or the details of your complaint (required): This complaint and behaviour experienced has a large amount of victimisation attached as a result of bad feeling and I am fearful for the safety of my own family and further issues should he be able to read this in depth

Would you like to request that your identity is kept confidential? (optional):

Title (required): Mr

First name (required): Jason

Last name (required): Morris

Address:

Address line 1 (optional)	Address line 2 (optional)	Address line 3 (optional)	Town / City (optional)	County (optional)	Postcode (optional)
[REDACTED]					

Phone number (optional):

Email address (required): [REDACTED]

Please tell us which option best describes you (required): Member of the public

Gender (optional):

Age (optional):

Ethnic origin (optional):

Name of Member(s) you are complaining about (required):

Member's name (required) Sean Woodward
--

Details of your complaint (required): Please find below the complaint I am making about the actions, conduct and behaviour of Cllr Sean Woodward who has responsibility for recreation and heritage

My family and I are involved with The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team where both of my sons are members. myself, Jason Morris, Russell Collier and [REDACTED] were the owners of the team when it was formed however [REDACTED] left in July 2019. Mr Woodward was introduced to the team in September 2018 when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mr Woodward, as the leader of Fareham Borough Council and as the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage of Hampshire County Council he attended the team's presentation evening held at Hampshire Constabularies Training HQ where he handed out the trophies to the children.

Over the next few months Mr Woodward provided a grant to the team and secured them two training grounds, one in Knowle and the other at Solent Airport. Mr Woodward was becoming more and more a common sight around the team whenever they trained or were performing at local events. This was in his official capacity as a councillor and [REDACTED] even on

occasions the local press had been invited for him to have pictures taken with the team either at Knowle or Solent Airport. (<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/meet-portsmouth-and-fareham-s-mini-motorcycle-gangs-1-8675746>) <http://www.sean-woodward.co.uk/amazing-team-green-rockets-training-at-daedalus/>

████████ stated her intentions to leave the team on the 12/06/19, however she attended HMS Sultan Summer Show on the weekend of the 15th and 16th of June 2019 as part of the team, Mr Woodward was in attendance all weekend with the team and in meetings with the organisers. At the end of the show it was found that ██████████ had stolen several thousands of pounds from the team's bank account and then told everyone that she had transferred the team's assets to herself. Mr Woodward was at her side throughout.

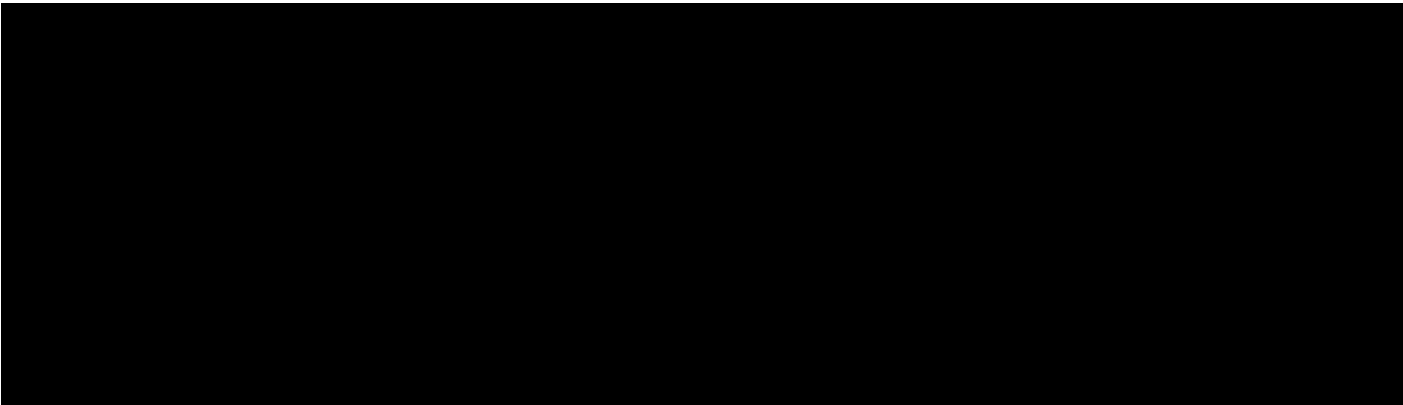
At the end of the event I took the team lorry back to Mr Collier's home address of ██████████, ██████████. Mr Collier arrived back at the same time having followed in his own vehicle. A short while later Mr Woodward and ██████████ arrived at the address, Mr Woodward was driving the teams Mazda MX-5 that was supplied on sponsorship, he had already been made aware when I had seen him driving it that he was not insured to drive the vehicle as he was not a member of The Rockets, but I was told that when he is on official business he is covered Fareham Borough Council's policy.

Mr Collier told ██████████ to leave his address and she did, with Mr Woodward driving the car away from the property with ██████████ as a passenger, but a few minutes later ██████████ returned and threw herself on the ground in the driveway when she assaulted Mr Collier. Mr Woodward went over to ██████████ I too went to assist to see why she had collapsed onto the ground and Mr Woodward said to both of us "I'LL HAVE YOUR JOBS FOR THIS" he then said "I'M ON THE PHONE TO YOUR CHIEF INSPECTOR" Both Mr Collier and I are both Police Officers, for Mr Woodward to make threats to have our jobs is very concerning, why did he phone a Chief Inspector when ██████████ had assaulted Mr Collier? In my view Mr Woodward was trying to assert his authority as the leader of the Council with his connections to senior members of the police force to ensure that we were subjected to unfair allegations.

The Rockets had been awarded a grant by FBC and Hampshire County Council, this was for a total of £30000, made up of £15000 from each authority for the Rockets to fund a new vehicle for the team, this grant was written by Mr Woodward himself and then emailed back to ██████████ at the teams email address, at the time FBC were only allowed to provide grants up to £5000 unless it went to a panel, under that amount, just one of the councillors was able to sign it off, so it wouldn't have to go to panel Mr Woodward arranged to have the limit raised to £15000. Mr Collier and I were now getting very suspicious of what was going on and told ██████████ that we were not comfortable with the way Mr Woodward was so entwined with the team and her, and that he appeared to be changing rules for his own personal gain, in that ██████████. When the grant was going to be authorised by HCC Mr Woodward ensured this was signed off first thing in the morning as the leadership was due to change later that morning and that if it was later, he might not be in a position to get this grant signed as he may not remain in post as executive member for recreation and heritage after this time. I now believe that ██████████ has used the credentials of these grants awarded to The Rockets to be given the awards for her new enterprise called 'Solent Stars' that at the time was only just being formed and had no history.

On the 8th of September 2019 I was at Solent Airport with the 'Rocket's using the community space, during the day I observed Mr Woodward drive up to the gate and take photographs of the children, he was there for a few minutes, he drove away then returned a short time later where he

stopped again before driving off.



I see that the clear breaches to the code of conduct are as follows:

3.1 By treating myself in an unfair manor along with our children's motorcycle display team this breached representing the needs of residents and putting our interests first, in fact it displays putting his own interests namely supporting [REDACTED] whatever the cost ahead of any other

3.2 Mirror's the above, Fairly, Appropriately and impartially

3.3 He has demonstrated that he has allowed other self interest in the form of pressures to be put before others and in the financial interests of [REDACTED] who he has a relationship with for example taking our grant away and financially supporting her ahead of all the children and members of our club

3.4 He has allowed outside influence to cloud Judgement such as his relationship with [REDACTED], which in turn has meant that he is influenced by her and also employed her

3.5 Not Remaining objective

3.6 Instead of being accountable and co-operating when scrutinised both internally and externally he has in fact sought to make up allegations and bully those who are trying to hold him to account

3.7 Nothing about what he has done is open and transparent he has sought to cover everything up and justify actions and lie

3.8 I have not asked for any information, I can speculate on others but only an enquiry would determine this

3.9 Again I very much doubt following an investigation that he will have complied here but an amount of investigation would need to be undertaken to fully establish the extent of this

3.12 All of the above and much more disclosed and following the findings of this investigation will determine this

3.14 As mentioned above this is not fair and nor is he treating organisations with respect and fairness, he has a well-known history both amongst the general public and his own colleagues be it employees or other political figureheads that he is a bully and when people speak up he will bully them or deselect them, and/ or threaten them

3.15 Goes hand in hand with the above

Mr Woodward was absolutely acting in his capacity as a councillor, I would not know him otherwise, he attends and introduces himself as a councillor, whilst at our shows he introduces us to management such as at HMS Sultan and again in his capacity as councillor. He regularly drove our loaned Mazda Car from Mazda UK and when we raised concern that he was not insured and asked Mazda who confirmed he was not as it was only members of the Rockets, he advised that the council would cover him. He wrote up and signed of the grants himself as a councillor. He turned up at Mr Collier's address as a councillor and made it very clear owing to his position he was able to telephone a senior officer in the Police and advised he would have my job

Due to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] leaving The Rockets and Mr Woodward's relationship with her I am fearful for what

he will do next, he is undertaking a course of conduct amounting to Harassment.

Kind Regards

Jason Morris

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint? (optional):An investigation into the conduct and behaviour of Mr Woodward

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:52
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd:
Attachments: Hampshire County Council Grants Process.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This is the application [REDACTED] made for £2000 directly from Woodward for ramps, at this time she knew full well that the ramps were being supplied for free as did Woodward
Other bits to follow

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:52
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

>
>
> From: Seán Woodward <sean@[REDACTED].org.uk>
> Sent: 03 April 2019 22:28
> To: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
> Subject: Re: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application
>
> That's OK
> Seán D T Woodward
> [REDACTED]
>
> On 3 Apr 2019, at 22:26, The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk<mailto:info@therockets.co.uk>>
> wrote:
> How about now ?
>
> Begin forwarded message:
> From: grants@hants.gov.uk<mailto:grants@hants.gov.uk>
> Date: 3 April 2019 at 21:49:38 BST
> To: info@therockets.co.uk<mailto:info@therockets.co.uk>
> Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application Your
> Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.
>
> Please follow this link to resume your application:
> Your Saved Grant Application
> Form<<https://grantsform.hants.gov.uk/LandingPage.aspx?code=od849idp5x0t60ep>>

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:53
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: info@therockets.co.uk <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2019 21:51

To: [sean@\[REDACTED\].org.uk](mailto:sean@[REDACTED].org.uk)

Subject: FW: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

This is not the application as I cannot retrieve once submitted but a previous version.

From: grants@hants.gov.uk <grants@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2019 15:55

To: info@therockets.co.uk

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:

[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:53
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: RHCF Application Ref: CG00017053

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Hampshire one she wrote in my name!!!!

From: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
Sent: 26 March 2019 17:44
To: Seán Woodward <sean@[REDACTED].org.uk>
Subject: Fwd: RHCF Application Ref: CG00017053

Begin forwarded message:

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Date: 25 March 2019 at 15:32:18 GMT
To: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
Subject: RHCF Application Ref: CG00017053

Dear Russell,
Thank you for your application to the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. I was just looking through your supporting documents and was wondering if you were able to provide us with the following:

- Reserves Policy
- 3 Estimates
- 3 Year Business Plan

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Administrative Officer
Culture, Communities & Business Services (CCBS)
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Castle Avenue, 76 High Street, Winchester, SO23 8UL

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:54
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2019 23:03
To: Seán Woodward <[sean@\[REDACTED\].org.uk](mailto:sean@[REDACTED].org.uk)>
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Begin forwarded message:

From: grants@hants.gov.uk
Date: 3 March 2019 at 12:43:30 GMT
To: info@therockets.co.uk
Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:
[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:54
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 February 2019 09:59
To: info@therockets.co.uk
Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Dear [REDACTED]

The Recreation and Heritage Community Fund is one of the various grant schemes operated by Hampshire County Council and we use a corporate application form and process. The Guidance for Applicants link at the bottom of the webpage provides guidance on completing this form and the supporting documentation that is requested. There is also a handy 'application checklist' you can use to make sure everything is covered. It would be helpful if you could submit the supporting documentation to us directly where possible (electronic copies can be uploaded with your application) as this will speed the process up for us. We will liaise with [REDACTED] at Fareham Borough Council as well.

If you have any queries when completing the application, please feel free to get in touch and we will be happy to chat through them with you.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

CCBS Grants
Hampshire County Council
Office 2
Second Floor
Castle Hill
Winchester
SO23 8UH

ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk

Information on CCBS Grant Schemes can be found at
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-funds-list?filter=.Culture-Communities-and-Business-Services>

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: info@therockets.co.uk <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 05 February 2019 23:26

To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Hello,

Thank you for the update regarding the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. The link now appears to be live however it is taking me to the County Council Grant and not Recreation Heritage grant so unsure if this is correct application?

I have this week met with [REDACTED] at Fareham Civic Offices regarding the match funding from Fareham Borough application and have submitted some of the requested documents. I understand both authorities work closely together and you will liaise regarding information required from The Rockets.

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding the link and once confirmed I will of course continue with the application.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]



This email (and its attachments) is intended only for the use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain information which is privileged and/or confidential. If it has come to you in error, you must take no action based on it nor must you copy or show it to anyone.

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 February 2019 13:09

To: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. We were hoping that the link to apply would be live by today however there is a small delay from our IT department.

Below is a link to the webpage where you can apply. We hope that the application link will go live this week so please keep checking the page.

We look forward to receiving your application.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/recreation-heritage-community-fund>

Kind Regards

From: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 28 January 2019 08:12

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to introduce The Team Green Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team and would like to register our interest in the new Recreation & Heritage Community Fund. Having made contact with Councillor Seán Woodward to seek advice our intention is to apply to both Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council.

I am be delighted to share with you our journey so far. The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team is an enthusiastic group of 4 - 16-year-old children who wish to be given the opportunity to perform as part of a children's motorcycle display team displaying at events throughout the year, from charity events, school fairs and families days to local carnivals. Since the start-up in January 2018 its success and growth has been unimaginable. One year on having recently changed to a Community Interest Company (not-for-profit) we have established good foundations with an exciting plan for the coming year.

Joining and being part of Rockets is not just about riding ability. The emphasis behind Rockets is very much working and supporting the children to understand, learn and develop the importance of team work and their attitude. Discipline and general life skills fundamentally form part of our training. We focus on individuals both on and off their bikes from behaviour and respect to commitment and dedication. Teaching them to ride a motorcycle comes from a strong foundation of these essential skills. The children very quickly learn they are part of something to be proud, in turn children gain and build confidence, which leads to strong interpersonal skills that they will carry into later life.

We are confident the club will continue to thrive with clear plans and objectives but most importantly remain self-reliant by means of income from show bookings for events. However, to be able to achieve this we need to transport motorbikes and equipment to and from events. Our project focus for the immediate future is working on raising money to fund a new lorry. Without this we are logistically unable to attend venues and perform. The project is a huge task and not as simple as just purchasing a vehicle. The vehicle will need significant modification to meet not only our needs but also the requirements of the "Showman's Guild" which we are members of and operating under such practice offers extensive benefits to the club.

We estimate the total value of our project to be in the region of £45,000.00 and therefore ask for your consideration for a grant of 1/3 of the value. We will also apply and ask the same from Fareham Borough Council and we match with a remaining amount of £15,000.00 for which we are currently enthusiastically fundraising.

I hope you give careful consideration to our request and would invite you to view our show programme (attached) which will give you a good insight into what we believe is an unusual and exciting community interest. We would be pleased to enter into a community use agreement to ensure that we commit to offering free taster sessions to any interested children as well as offering some free performances each year to not-for-profit organisations and continuing to raise money for good causes.

I look forward to hearing back from you and perhaps meeting so that we can make an application to the new fund.

Kind regards



Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:55
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Grant Application: CG00016675/ Cllr Sean Woodward

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Members Grants <members.grants@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 January 2019 14:00
To: info@therockets.co.uk
Subject: Grant Application: CG00016675/ Cllr Sean Woodward

Dear Madam

Further to your application to Cllr Sean Woodward, reference number CG00016675 to enable us to set up a payment to yourselves we require some further information.

This information is needed to process your application for payment.

Please note we cannot make payment into an individuals account or a schools account owned/operated by Hampshire County Council, we will require a Parent Teacher account, Friends of... account, or a fundraising account that exists outside of Hampshire County Council banking.

Organisation Name (as stated on the application form):

Organisation Address (as stated on the application form):

Email Address:

Email Address for Remittance Advice:

Name of Bank:

Name of the Organisations Bank Account:

Bank Account Number:

Bank Sort Code:

Should you require further assistance with information that has been requested, please do not hesitate to contact us via this email.

Kind regards,

Members Grant Payment Team

Hampshire County Council

EII Court, East

The Castle

Winchester

SO23 8UB

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:55
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk <sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 January 2019 15:13

To: info@therockets.co.uk

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Thank you for your grant application to Hampshire County Council. You will be contacted by the relevant team in due course.

Grant ID: CG00016675

Grant stream applied to: County Councillor Grants - Cllr Woodward, Seán

Organisation name: The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team

Project title: The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team

Amount requested: £2000.00

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:53
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: The Rockets Follow up

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: info@therockets.co.uk <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2019 21:47

To: [sean@\[REDACTED\].org.uk](mailto:sean@[REDACTED].org.uk)

Subject: FW: The Rockets Follow up

Evening,

The most challenging part of this request is providing evidence of the longevity of the tractor unit?

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@Fareham.Gov.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@Fareham.Gov.UK)>

Sent: 29 March 2019 12:08

To: info@therockets.co.uk

Cc: Bell, Cllr. S <SBell@Fareham.Gov.UK>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@1community.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@1community.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@Fareham.Gov.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@Fareham.Gov.UK)>; CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: The Rockets Follow up

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for yours' and [REDACTED] time this morning. I hope you are both now clear on how to progress with The Rockets' Community Funding application.

To confirm, at the meeting we agreed that you need to provide;

- A 3 year business plan, detailing accessibility to the Rockets by Fareham's community and in particular more disadvantaged individuals.
- A breakdown of costs for the project (tractor unit, trailer, fitting out, branding costs).
- How maintenance and longevity of the tractor unit will be assured by the Rockets.
- Further details on the age of the tractor unit, the specification of the fitting out, and the size of the vehicle.

Once I have received this information from you, I will touch base again with Councillor Bell to continue the application process.

Please be aware that it is likely that conditions for any award will include;

- The display of FBC's logo on the trailer.
- An agreed amount of free local displays per year.
- An agreed amount of opportunities per year for free access to a Rockets' experience by young people.
- A considered pricing policy that takes into account access to the Team by more disadvantaged young people.

I have copied [REDACTED] from One Community in to this email. When she returns from jury service, she will be able to share her knowledge with regards to developing a pricing policy.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED]
Leisure and Community Officer
Fareham Borough Council
[REDACTED]



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Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 9

Public Document Pack

Executive Decision Records

Please find set out below a number of Executive Decisions taken at the HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage Decision Day held at the Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 7th May, 2019

1. **GRANT FUNDING TO CULTURE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE 2019/20**
2. **GRANT FUNDING TO CULTURE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE 2019/20, ANDOVER CYCLING FESTIVAL**

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Item 1

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	7 May 2019
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. The Decision:

- 1.1 The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approves awards from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 totalling £68,860 to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire as outlined in Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage defers a decision on a grant to Pilands Wood Community Association to July 2019.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 To award grant funding to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Seán Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage

7 May 2019

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs (due to the declaration of interest declared by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage)
Date:	7 May 2019
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. The Decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs approves £15,000 from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 to the Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 To award grant funding to the organisation in line with the established grant funding criteria.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage has declared an interest related to the Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC. In accordance with Part 3, Chapter 2, Section 2.3 of the Constitution, the Leader has deputed this decision to the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs.

- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None
6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable
7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
----- Councillor Edward Heron Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs	7 May 2019
(on behalf of Councillor Séan Woodward Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage)	

Item 2

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	7 May 2019
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20, Andover Cycling Festival
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. The Decision:

1.1. The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approves an award from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 totalling £3,000 to Andover Vision in support of Andover Cycling Festival on condition that they provide evidence of the Partnership Agreement and their latest accounts.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1 To award grant funding to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Seán Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage

7 May 2019

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 10

FILE NOTE – 23 October 2019

Telephone call received from Cllr Woodward

Grant Application – Solent Stars Motorcycle Team

Telephone call received 23 October 2019 from Cllr Woodward. Cllr Woodward indicated that he had been advised by CCBS that further information was required in respect of a grant application by the Solent Start Motorcycle Team for funding under the Recreation & Heritage Community Fund. Cllr Woodward indicated that the applicant was one of only three children's motorcycle display teams in the country and that he wanted the application to go to his Decision Day in November. I indicated that my understanding was that on the information supplied the application did not fit the grant criteria and that further information was required. Cllr Woodward stated that the intention was to fit out the vehicle to which the grant related to 'Showmen's Guild' specifications, and that if this were done it would have a significant financial impact on the motorcycle club's operating costs as various criteria which would normally apply to a HGV would not be necessary.

Barbara Beardwell

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 11

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2020 14:20
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRET-
WORKSITE.FID756390]
Attachments: ROI SW_9051740_1.DOC; ROI SW_9051741_1.PDF
Categories: (EFA) Not saved to MS

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

We have been asked by Councilor Sean Woodward to assist him in connection with the complaints that you are currently investigating that have been made against him by PC Morris and PC Collier.

Our instruction arises out of concerns that our client has as to the scope of the investigation following the interview that you had with him and subsequent enquiry that you have made of him for further information.

As you know, our client believes that the complaints that have been made against him by the connected individuals have been made vexatiously and arise out of matters that have nothing at all to do with his role as a Hampshire County Councilor. They have already been dismissed by two other bodies to whom complaint was made including Fareham Borough Council.

Our understanding is that the two aspects of the complaints that HCC elected to pass to you for an investigation were:

(a) Certain grants made by HCC under the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund, [REDACTED]

As you will know, the County Council Members Code of Conduct applies to Members "when acting in their official capacity.. or when giving the impression that they are acting as a representative" of the Council. In other words its applicability extends only to duties as a public officer and is not intended to intrude on private matters.

[REDACTED]

We accept that the allocation of grants does fall within that role and therefore the Code. We believe that our client has explained fully the process that was gone through as part of the process of making those grants and the fact that our client deliberately stood down from making the decision (although having revisited HCC's Code of Conduct on individual grants and members interests he questions whether in fact he ever did need to withdraw from making the two grant decisions at all as he has no disclosable pecuniary interest in The Rockets and even if he had a personal interest because of his friendship with [REDACTED] the code makes clear that it would not have affected his ability to participate in a discussion or vote on the relevant grant, provided it is not also a disclosable pecuniary interest, which as we have said it was not). Therefore, that ought to be the subject of a fairly limited investigation.

Instead, in your email to our client of 24 March 2020 following your interview with him you asked him various

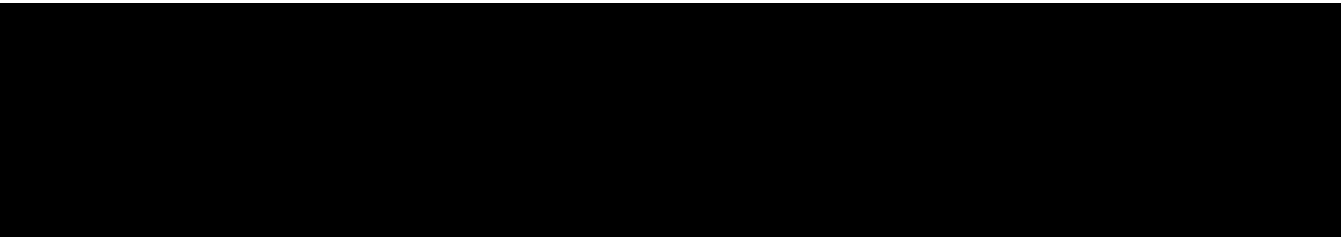
further questions, none of which seemed to have any real relevance to the specific areas of complaint (in particular we cannot see how our client obtaining an HGV Licence and been seen video driving a lorry can be at all pertinent to your investigation).

It is as much your raising these questions as the questions themselves that have given rise to the concern on the part of our client that your investigation seems to be broadening into matters that have nothing to do at all with our client's conduct as a County Councilor and also adding fuel to his perception that you are allowing yourself to be drawn into what are essentially personal matters that are nothing at all to do with the Code of Conduct. Our client has so far co-operated with the investigation, and remains willing to do so, but against a backdrop of persistent potentially defamatory statements about him by the complainants is concerned that frivolous and vexatious matters are being given greater substance than they deserve and valuable time and money is being expended on something which is unjustified and which, as we have said has already been summarily disposed of by two other bodies.

We would be grateful, therefore, if you would provide us with the appropriate reassurance that the scope of your investigation will indeed be limited to the essential elements of the complaints rather than extraneous matters that have no bearing on them. This is especially important given we understand the outcome of your investigation could become public and so risks repeating potentially defamatory allegations about our client. We are in the process of advising our client about his remedies in relation to those allegations.

A signed word document containing tracked changes as well as a PDF incorporating all the changes of our client's amended note of your interview with him is attached.

Yours faithfully



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Simon Goacher

From: Simon Goacher
Sent: 13 May 2020 15:56
To: 'Richard Cook'
Subject: RE: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

DOCID: 24393921
SENTON: 13/05/2020 15:55:14

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email and for the attachments.

In response to the concerns which you raise my response is as follows:

It is for Hampshire County Council to make its own decisions on complaints made to it under its processes. The other bodies to which you refer must of course make their own decisions based on their own rules.

I appreciate your client's position regarding the complaints which he has himself told me.

I am of course aware that the Code of Conduct applies when a member is acting in their capacity as such. Part of the purpose of my investigation is to determine, considering all of the evidence, whether the conduct if proved, occurred in such a capacity.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I set out in my response to your client the reasons for asking the additional questions/requesting documentary evidence which I put to him and why they are relevant to my investigation. For ease of reference the questions/requests were:

You mentioned when we met that one of the complainants had told you that the grant monies had not been used to pay for ramps (paragraph 12). Are you able to tell me when that was? Do you have anything in writing about that from them?

Also it has been suggested that you obtained your HGV licence and have been video driving the lorry purchased by the Solent Stars, is this true?

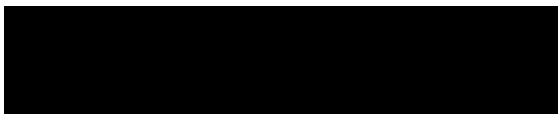
[REDACTED]

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether your client is refusing to answer these questions/supply the information requested.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Goacher
Partner
Weightmans LLP



<https://www.weightmans.com>

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<mailto:serviceofproceedings@weightmans.com>

From: R [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 May 2020 14:20

To: Simon Goacher <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRETHER-WORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

We have been asked by Councilor Sean Woodward to assist him in connection with the complaints that you are currently investigating that have been made against him by PC Morris and PC Collier.

Our instruction arises out of concerns that our client has as to the scope of the investigation following the interview that you had with him and subsequent enquiry that you have made of him for further information.

As you know, our client believes that the complaints that have been made against him by the connected individuals have been made vexatiously and arise out of matters that have nothing at all to do with his role as a Hampshire County Councilor. They have already been dismissed by two other bodies to whom complaint was made including Fareham Borough Council.

Our understanding is that the two aspects of the complaints that HCC elected to pass to you for an investigation were:

(a) Certain grants made by HCC under the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund, [REDACTED]



Simon Goacher

From: Richard Cook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 15 May 2020 12:23
To: Simon Goacher <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRET-TH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2020 in response to my email of the same date.

My client is not refusing to answer questions or supply information and does rather take exception to the implied insinuation that he is not co-operating with your investigation. Rather he has queried the relevance and scope of what you are asking of him because in many respects they intrude into personal matters that can have no connection whatsoever with his public duty as a Hampshire County Councillor.

Also, at least one of your requests he has already answered. That is the first of them. This is something that you already have because it was included by PC Collier in his complaint. You noted it in paragraph 12 of your interview note.

Despite your explanation my client still fails to see the relevance of your second request concerning his HGV Licence and has no idea what "video – driving" is.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Given the multiplicity of complaints and counter complaint in this case there is a danger of lines becoming blurred and matters being prejudged in some way or potentially undermined by findings elsewhere. That is why we need your reassurance before disclosing what it is that you have asked for.

My client genuinely felt that you had more than enough information at your disposal to enable you to carry out the task that you have been allotted without asking for further information from him. He has no wish to be uncooperative but you will appreciate his sense of frustration given you are the third person to sit in judgement on him in relation to something which he considers to be without merit. However he is willing to provide you with the letter (which is the only item that you have requested that can be at all relevant) and trust that you will now be able to complete your investigation.

Yours sincerely

Richard Cook
Partner - Commercial Litigation
For and on behalf of Trethowans LLP

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Simon Goacher

From: Simon Goacher
Sent: 18 May 2020 12:59
To: 'Richard Cook'
Subject: RE: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email.

I fail to see why you and your client cannot simply answer the questions which I have asked in a straightforward way. It is for me as the investigator to determine what is relevant to the complaint I have been asked to investigate. He and you are simply asking me to accept his version of events on certain aspects without him providing the supporting evidence which would enable me to assess his position and that of the complainants. If the position is as he and you state it is then the documentation can only help his case and a failure to provide it can only worsen it. I apply a similar approach to all investigations I carry out and I have done countless similar investigations. I apply the same considerations to complainants and subject members and usually parties are only too willing to co-operate and provide evidence to support their case. Therefore, I do find your client's approach both strange and highly unusual.

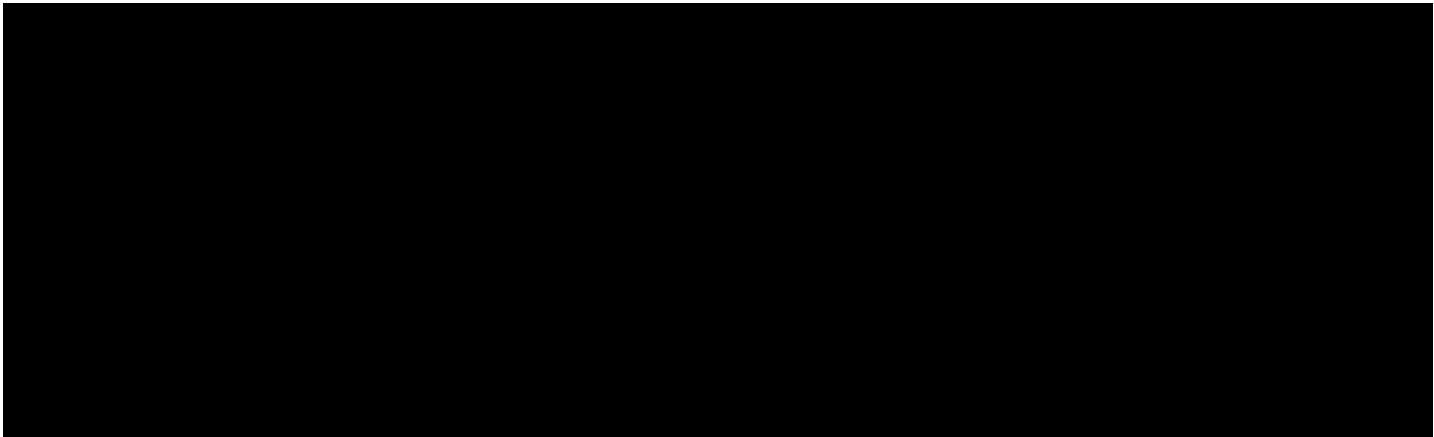
In relation to the questions I have set out below in red what I take your responses to mean;

- 1. You mentioned when we met that one of the complainants had told you that the grant monies had not been used to pay for ramps (paragraph 12). Are you able to tell me when that was? Do you have anything in writing about that from them?*

Your client has no information or documentation about this beyond that which was included in Mr Collier's complaint

- 2. Also it has been suggested that you obtained your HGV licence and have been video driving the lorry purchased by the Solent Stars, is this true?*

This should of course have read "videod" which must have been obvious to you and your client. Your client is refusing to answer this question on the basis that you and he do not believe it to be relevant to the interest which he had in the previous grant applications.



I look forward to receiving the documentation promised as soon as possible so that I can conclude my investigation and complete my draft report. If there is anything set out above in red which is incorrect please do advise me of the correct position.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Goacher
Partner

Weightmans LLP



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Simon Goacher

From: Richard Cook <R[REDACTED]>
Sent: 19 May 2020 12:25
To: Simon Goacher <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your email yesterday.

Whilst we appreciate that it is for you to conduct your investigation as you see fit, equally my client has a right to privacy in relation to his personal, private life and as I said in my original email to you one of the main reasons why he took legal advice was because of his concerns that your investigation was straying into those areas which, in his view, are not relevant to the central issues of your investigation.

In response to your summarization of our client's responses:-

- 1 My client never said that one of the complainants gave him this information. A member of the team placed the orders with the ramp suppliers and [REDACTED] arranged the collection of the ramps. She can certainly confirm that there was never any suggestion of the ramps being free. The value of the ramps was around £8,000 but the suppliers agreed to supply them for £2,000. There were four ramps and three were supplied. Half the order by value was supplied. When no money was forthcoming the final ramp, the largest, a car ramp, was withheld.
- 2 Correct, the relevance of this question remains beyond us. How would our client know whether he was videoed driving the lorry. To put this matter to bed he does have the necessary licence and he has driven a number of lorries including the Solent Stars one in February 2020.

[REDACTED]

We look forward to receiving the requested assurances.

Regards.

Richard Cook
Partner - Commercial Litigation
For and on behalf of Trethowans LLP
[REDACTED]

Trethowans LLP, The Pavilion, Botleigh Grange Business Park, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 2AF, Switchboard: +44 (0) 23 8032 1000

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Simon Goacher

From: Simon Goacher
Sent: 19 May 2020 14:32
To: 'Richard Cook'
Subject: RE: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email.

As a result of your answers I will need to make some further inquiries which I will hope to conclude as quickly as possible.

I will send you a copy of my draft report as soon as it is produced.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Goacher
Partner
Weightmans LLP



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EXCELLENCE



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INTERNATIONAL BUT PERSONAL

Please send all communications electronically. In light of the government's recent advice, we have limited capacity to handle incoming or outgoing post.

We will accept service of proceedings electronically if proceedings are sent to <mailto:serviceofproceedings@weightmans.com>

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 12

Background to the Motorcycles Grant Applications

May 2018:

- Councillor Woodward took over as Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage.
- In a subsequent briefing with him, Cllr Woodward made it clear to me and the then Director that he wanted to review the grants. He wanted to move away from ongoing revenue funding to culture and community organisations, to one-off grants to increase sustainability and reduce reliance on public sector funding. Cllr Woodward also wanted to widen the criteria of the scheme so that other organisations could apply.
- Whilst I didn't keep a record of it, I recall at least 2 conversations with Cllr Woodward in the lead-up to January's Decision Day when he told me about a motorcycle group that were going to apply for a grant.

Decision Day 14 January 2019:

- Changes to the Grant scheme were approved.
- [REDACTED] and I attended this Decision Day. After the formal decisions had been made, Cllr Woodward talked about his preferred approach to the new grants scheme and specifically mentioned a grant of £15,000 towards the cost of a lorry for a children's motorcycle team – [REDACTED] notes.

19 March 2019:

- Cllr Woodward e-mailed [REDACTED], on behalf of the Rockets Motorcycle team, to say that, after partially completing the grant application form and saving it, they had 'lost' it.
- There were then a further 8 e-mails between Cllr Woodward and [REDACTED] about issues to do with the grant application form (which [REDACTED] sorted). In one of the e-mails Cllr Woodward asks when the grant application would come to him for a decision, [REDACTED] says hopefully his May Decision Day.
- The grant application from The Rockets arrived in March. It was submitted by Russell Collier, one of the Directors.
- On 25 March we asked for more information, e.g. business plan etc.

Moving the Decision Day:

- Cllr Woodward rang me to ask if the 23 May Decision Day could be moved to late April (no written record of the phone call, but an e-mail from ██████o Felicity Roe (FR) confirms that I had asked for the Decision Day to be moved). I then let ██████ know. (HCC Full Council was on 17 May).
- E-mail from ██████ on 17 April to Cllr Woodward saying April was not possible and suggesting the afternoon of 7 May.
- E-mail from Cllr Woodward saying Yes to 7 May, but wanting the Decision Day in the morning.
- 25 April – ██████ e-mails the draft grants report to me, saying Cllr Woodward had declared an interest as one of the applicants from The Rockets was known to him.

7 May Decision Day and subsequent correspondence about The Rockets

- 7 May Decision Day – Cllr Heron approved a grant of £15,000 to The Rockets.
- An email was sent to The Rockets on 7 May to confirm the grant and followed up on 21 May with the formal offer letter etc.

The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC has been awarded one third of project costs to a maximum of £15,000 on the condition that:

a) match funding from Fareham Borough Council is secured and that the organisation develops a pricing policy, offers a number of free displays locally and offers a number of free/subsidised places to local children to whom cost would be a barrier to participation.

- Russell Collier signed the offer letter on 22 May.
- Russell Collier returned the completed BACS form.
- 14 June Cllr Woodward phoned me to say that one of the Directors (██████████) of The Rockets had split from the original organisation and had set up a separate CIC from The Rockets and all the contracts etc had novated to the new organisation. He asked if we could transfer the grant to the new organisation and said that Fareham BC would be transferring their grant. I asked for more details of the new organisation which were sent to me by ██████ on 17 June. She says that 'All sponsorship deals and show bookings have been novated to this community interest company' and included a copy of the Kawasaki contract; but I noticed that this hasn't been signed. The new organisation is called the Green Rockets Motorcycle Display Team CIC.

- I spoke to David Kelly about the situation.
- 18 June we received a letter from [REDACTED] solicitors on behalf of two of the three Directors of The Rockets, saying that the grant has to go to The Rockets and not [REDACTED] new motorcycle team..
- 18 June Cllr Heron received an email from [REDACTED] who is a director of the [REDACTED] Children's Motorcycle Display team asking why The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC was given a grant of £15,000 and saying it was giving them an advantage over other similar organisations?
- 19 June Cllr Woodward phoned me to say that he didn't want the grant issued to either the original organisation or the new one. Fareham BC have also had a letter from a solicitor and Cllr W said that Fareham would not be giving a grant to either organisation, but new applications would be considered. Cllr Woodward also said he had been a witness to an assault which was being investigated by the Police.
- 19 June – on advice from David Kelly, I e-mailed Cllr Woodward to ask him for the Police Investigation number for the assault – which he sent me within 20 minutes.
- 19 June – a subsequent e-mail from Cllr Woodward to say that Fareham has cancelled their grant application to The Rockets. I also received an e-mail from the Grants officer at Fareham Borough Council that evening to confirm this.
- 4 July – Letters sent out from Legal to The Rockets and [REDACTED] (who had complained to Cllr Heron), confirming that no grant would be paid to The Rockets.

New Grant Application:

- 2 October – we received a new grant application from The Solent Stars CIC [REDACTED] – but a considerable amount of information was missing.
- [REDACTED] also received a phone call from Cllr Woodward about it, indicating he was keen to make the decision ASAP and could not see why it wouldn't be recommended for an award as the previous one had been – there is no record of this phone call.
- We chased for the outstanding information as part of our usual process of following up incomplete applications.
- 22 October – in [REDACTED]'s absence, at 11.17 a.m., I sent Cllr Woodward details of the grants going to his November Decision Day. I also said that, on the advice from Legal, the application should not be awarded a grant.

- 11.25 a.m. Cllr Woodward phones me to ask why the application wasn't applicable for a grant, when Fareham Borough Council is giving them a grant? I told him about the complaint to Cllr Heron, that we only had one quote for the application and that the majority of the application now was to fit out the vehicle as it had now been bought – this really wasn't within the grants criteria.
- After speaking to FR, I rang Legal and spoke to David Kelly, Barbara Beardwell was in a meeting.
- 11.40 a.m. – Cllr Woodward rang me again saying he has spoken to Barbara who had said she was looking at it in more detail. Cllr Woodward explained to me that the fit out costs were due to conditions laid down by the Showman's Guild.
- 24 October – [REDACTED] sends in further information about The Showman's Guild to the Grants inbox.
- Early November – the Grants Team informed [REDACTED] that, due to annual leave, we had not been able to process the grant application in time for the November Decision Day.
- 21 November – [REDACTED] e-mails us to withdraw her grant application as they had 'many new recruits and a number of show bookings for 2020' which meant they could pay for the lorry to be fitted out.
- 13 January – [REDACTED] e-mailed Legal to ask if any grants had been paid to any motorcycle team. The response was 'No'.

[REDACTED]
2 March 2020

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 13

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 16:24
To: Woodward, Cllr S
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,
I hope to bring it to your May decision day and if they are able to get it in next week that should be plenty of time to meet the reporting schedule. I note they expect a decision from Fareham Borough Council in May also, so this should fit with their project timescale I hope.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Woodward, Cllr S
Sent: 20 March 2019 16:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Thank you. The second one (to me) is obviously in error, I am sure they will work on and submit the first one this week. When would you be bringing it to me for decision?
Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 16:03
To: Woodward, Cllr S
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,

Here are the latest links to the two applications that I sent through to the group earlier today:

<https://grantsform.hants.gov.uk/LandingPage.aspx?code=gi1oqnipnsvzr7q5>

<https://grantsform.hants.gov.uk/LandingPage.aspx?code=be0nur8ov782ktwr>

If they are currently working on the application/s and make a save, these links will be overwritten and will no longer work.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service

[REDACTED]
If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 15:56
To: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,
I was able to find alternative links that worked when I tested them and I have sent them to the group. The links below did not work for me either and I have reported the issue to IT to investigate.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Woodward, Cllr S
Sent: 20 March 2019 15:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear [REDACTED]

Do you mean the links below? If so they are the ones that have failed.
Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 10:53
To: Woodward, Cllr S
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,

Thank you for passing on this concern with is very troubling. I have shared it with the IT department and asked them to look into it. In the meantime, I can see the links to their two applications in progress which I will forward through to them.

Yours,

Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Woodward, Cllr S

Sent: 19 March 2019 21:11

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear [REDACTED]

I had a concern raised to me by the Rockets Motorcycle display team that they had completed a grant application and saved it on 3rd March then again on 9th March. They went back in using the generated link to submit and it was gone. Can you trace it for them please? The two emails containing the links are here – certainly not 30 days old:

From: grants@hants.gov.uk

Date: 9 March 2019 at 15:29:59 GMT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:

[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: grants@hants.gov.uk

Date: 3 March 2019 at 12:43:30 GMT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:

[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 March 2019 17:42

To: Woodward, Cllr S

Cc: [REDACTED]


Subject: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,

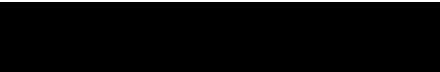
Please find attached the latest application summary for the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

The next update summary is scheduled for 29 March, but I will be on leave that week so will send it as soon as possible on my return.

Yours,


Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services

Hampshire County Council
Office 2
Second Floor
Castle Hill
Winchester
SO23 8UH


If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

Simon Goacher

From: Roe, Felicity <f[REDACTED]>
Sent: 18 April 2019 07:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Ok. That wording can come out on both entries now that dd has been changed.

From: "[REDACTED]"
Sent: Wednesday, 17 April 2019 17:11
To: "Roe, Felicity" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Dear Felicity,

[REDACTED] advised me verbally that Cllr Woodward was keen to make some decisions before the next decision day, ideally before the end of April.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Roe, Felicity
Sent: 17 April 2019 17:02
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi [REDACTED]
Thanks for the additional information . Where did the suggestion to make an April decision on the Rockets come from? It seems strange as the lorry won't be ready for this summer season.

Thanks
Felicity

Felicity Roe
Director
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Castle Avenue,
Winchester

S023 8UL

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2019 13:03
To: Roe, Felicity <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi Felicity – the grants being put forward to the May Decision Day are the ones under the 'Applications assessed since last update' section.

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

PA to:
Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2019 12:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi [REDACTED],

Here is the latest grants summary I shared with Cllr Woodward – I should have it worked up into report format tomorrow. It would be the 'Applications assessed since last update' section that goes into the report. Hope this is ok?!

Yours,

[REDACTED]

Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2019 12:03

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

[REDACTED] - apologies, but Felicity has asked if you could let her know what grants (and what area they are in) would be put forward to this Decision Day please.....!

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PA to:

Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 April 2019 11:37

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi [REDACTED] – I don't think you were copied into the note below! Will it be possible to have the final reports ready for publication on 26th April!?!

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 April 2019 11:35

To: Roe, Felicity <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Dear Felicity,

Please see below further to our emails regarding Councillor Woodward's May Decision Day. He would like to go for 9am on 7 May. This would mean that papers would need to be published by close of play on Friday 26 April. Would this be possible?

Of course, the timings would not allow for the normal lead in (officer/chairman virtual briefing) but reports could be emailed to Cllr Woodward in advance for his review if necessary.

If you could confirm at your earliest convenience, I would be grateful.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Woodward, Cllr S
Sent: 17 April 2019 11:29
To: C [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Could we do 9am on 7th May please?

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hants.gov.uk>
Date: 17 April 2019 at 09:07:50 BST
To: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Dear Councillor Woodward,

I understand that you would like to move your 23 May Decision Day forward. Due to the advance publication deadlines, and accounting for Bank Holidays, it would be difficult to hold a Decision Day in April as we would need to publish papers within the next day or two.

My proposal would be to schedule a Decision Day earlier in May. I could schedule something in the afternoon on 7 May – will you already be in Winchester that morning for your group meeting?


Kind regards


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic and Member Services
Corporate Services – Law and Governance

[REDACTED]

 <http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/>

 Think Green - don't print this e-mail unless necessary

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Simon Goacher

From: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 June 2019 19:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: The Rockets Motorcycle team

Dear [REDACTED]

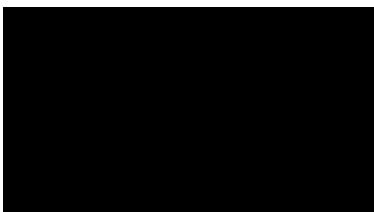
Just to let you know that FBC has cancelled their grant application.

Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward

Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage

County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



From: [REDACTED] >
Date: 19 June 2019 at 15:46:27 BST
To: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: The Rockets Motorcycle team

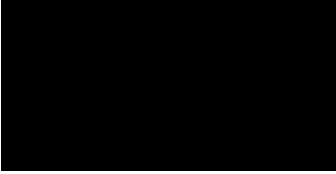
Dear Seán,

Following our telephone conversation this morning, Legal have asked for details of the Police Investigation into the assault on one of the directors of the original Rockets CIC.

Would you be able to let me have the investigation number please?

Many thanks,

Best wishes,



Assistant Director - Community and Regulatory Services,
Culture, Communities and Business Services department,
Hampshire County Council,
Three Minsters House, 76 High Street,
Winchester, SO23 8UL



Community and Regulatory Services includes Libraries, Trading Standards, Registration, Asbestos, Coroners,
Hampshire Scientific Services and Community Support

Simon Goacher

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 June 2019 08:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Confirmation of Fareham BC's decision not to award the grant

FYI

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 19 June 2019 21:00
To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Re:

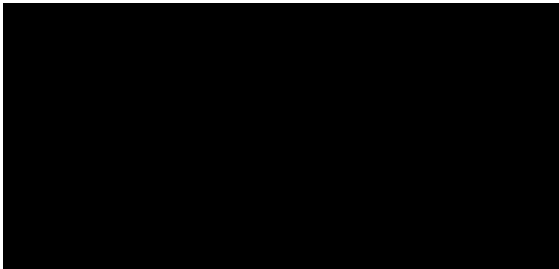
Dear [REDACTED],

Further to your email below, Claire is off at the moment, but I am dealing with this matter in Claire's absence.

Having sought legal advice, this afternoon, we, Fareham Borough Council informed The Team Green Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC, company number [REDACTED] who applied to the Council for match funding of £15,000, that we had taken the difficult decision not to award any community grant funding in respect of this application. This includes the transferring of the funds to the new Green Rockets Motorcycle Display Team CIC, company number [REDACTED]

I am not in the office tomorrow, but if you wish to discuss this in more detail, I can be contacted on my mobile – [REDACTED]

Kindest regards,



From: CCBS Grants [mailto:CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk]
Sent: 19 June 2019 12:48
To: [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Re:

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] has asked me to inform you that we are in discussion with our legal department regarding the issue.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Administrative Officer
Culture, Communities & Business Services (CCBS)
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Castle Avenue, 76 High Street, Winchester, SO23 8UL

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 18 June 2019 12:45
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; CCBS Grants
<CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: Re:

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks. This seems like a very sensible approach.

The solicitor will have received my out of office which gives us a little time to understand the situation better.

[REDACTED] - could you please inform Cllr Woodward that I am on leave but we are in conversation with Legal so we can understand our obligations.

Thank you,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]k>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 12:34 pm
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Subject: Re:

Dear [REDACTED] I have been made aware of some serious issues. Please put all monies on hold. I know you are on holiday so I will catch up with [REDACTED]. Regards. [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 12:13 pm

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject:

Dear Councillor [REDACTED]

Please be advised that we have received an email from a solicitors representing the 2 remaining directors of Team Green Rockets, looking to establish that the original funding stands and that it will not be transferred to [REDACTED]'s new CIC.

I would be grateful for a considered view before I respond to anyone.

[REDACTED] - could you please provide us with an update on Hampshire's approach regarding this matter for your own funding arrangements?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Leisure and Community Officer
Fareham Borough Council
[REDACTED]

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This email is confidential but may have to be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. If you are not the person or organisation it was meant for, apologies. Please ignore it, delete it and notify us. Emails may be monitored.

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 March 2020 09:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Motorcycle team grant application

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 24 October 2019 11:08
To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

To whom it may concern;

I have recently applied for a Recreation and Heritage community grant and thought it may be helpful to provide further details outlining "The Showmen's Guild" conversion and the benefit of what this would provide to the team.

To own or operate a HGV you must comply with the criteria set by the Traffic Commissioners and VOSA meaning all HGV/LGV vehicles must comply with the following conditions;

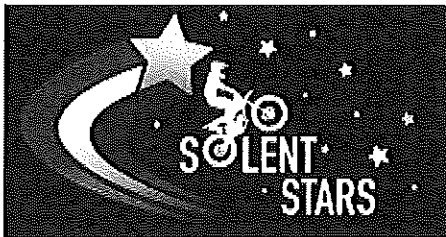
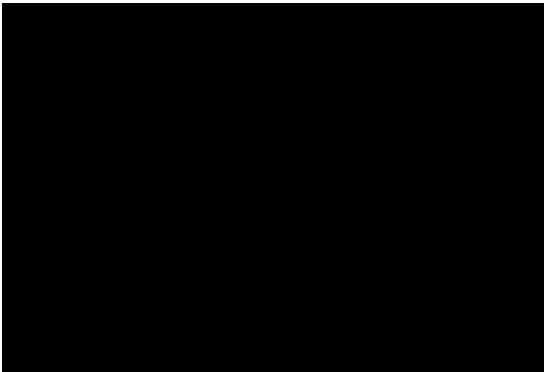
- Employ a qualified Transport Manager with a Certificate of Professional Competence (operator's CPC)
- Have an approved operating centre (approved by the Traffic Commissioner's Office)
- Hold an Operators Licence for the vehicle
- Operate with a 6 weekly maintenance schedule with an approved centre
- In addition to the driver holding a valid HGV licence they must also be CPC qualified and hold a valid Drivers CPC card
- Road fund licence based on the vehicle weight plating and axle configuration

All of the above would have a significant financial impact on the Club's annual operating costs and we would need to as a minimum employ an HGV Driver and Transport Manager. However, if we operate under "The Showmen's Guild" regulations it will take us out of scope for all of the above avoiding such costs and additional complications, but to transfer a HGV to a Special Vehicles category (a showman's vehicle) one must satisfy DVLA that the vehicle has been modified for the purpose of what one intends to use it for. This includes portable power, a living area, a restroom, heating, lighting, sleeping and catering facilities.

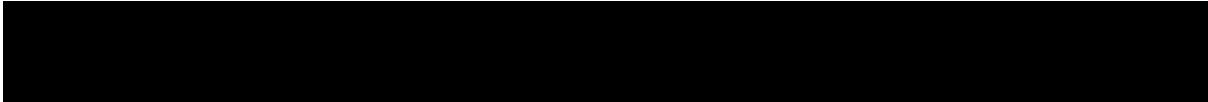
The addition of such equipment would not only meet DVLA conditions but will provide the children and their families with much needed essentials to support them during training season and many months of weekends away whilst at events performing. Without this conversion the Club would not be able to operate as the safety and wellbeing of our members and their families is paramount. The Club is operated and run by the parents all giving their time as volunteers. There is no financial gain to any member meaning we are confident without unnecessary operating costs and wages we are financially viable for future years. This is why we

are a Community Interest Company

I do hope the above information has provided you with a more in depth understanding of our project.



www.solentstars.co.uk



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From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 019 16:20

To: 'CCBS Grants' <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

As requested please find attached documents. You will find the reserves policy within the business plan.

Hopefully you know have all the necessary documentation and I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 October 2019 10:47

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your application to the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. It appears your application is missing the following supporting documentation.

- Constitution
- Reserve Policy
- Estimates for the works
- 3 yr business plan

We are hoping to take your application to the next decision day in November which we are currently putting the report together for, would you be able to send these documents as soon as possible so that the grants officer is able to make the application assessment and add it to the report in time?

If you have any questions about the supporting documentation then please let me know as I will be happy to help.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Administrative Officer
Culture, Communities & Business Services (CCBS)
Hampshire County Council

T [REDACTED]
ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Castle Avenue, 76 High Street, Winchester, SO23 8UL

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 November 2019 16:10
To: Roe, Felicity; [REDACTED]
Subject: Motorcycle org withdrawing their application, work underway

For your information, we have received an email from the Solent Stars Motorcycle Display Team, below, withdrawing their application.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 November 2019 17:22
To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

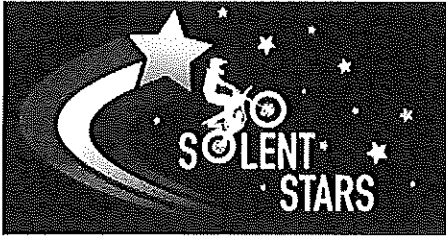
Dear [REDACTED]

I would like to bring you up to speed with our progression and delighted to say it's all moving in the right direction. We have many new recruits and a number of confirmed show bookings for 2020. With such positive progress we are now able to fund our project and the trailer conversion is very much underway. For this reason I realise we would no longer qualify so kindly request to withdraw our application. However, as we continue to grow and develop so will our ambitions so hope in time we can consider future grant funding for different a project.

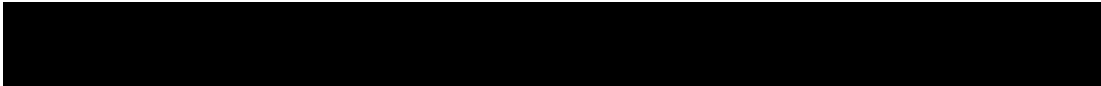
If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



www.solentstars.co.uk



Disclaimer

This message may contain information which is legally privileged and/or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any unauthorised disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information is strictly prohibited. Such notification notwithstanding, any comments or opinions expressed are those of the originator, not of Solent Stars Community Interest Company, unless otherwise explicitly stated.

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 14

COMMENTS OF COUNCILLOR SEÁN WOODWARD

BACKGROUND

16. I asked for my decision day to be changed in April 2019. The Leader of the Council was unchanged at that time so there had not “been a change of Leader.” Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement.

COLLIER

31. I have never had a conversation with PC Collier about grants or on any other matter. A new Cabinet was not being appointed at 10am on that day or even that week.
32. I attended a training event with my son at the end of 2018. I occasionally attended training. The only shows I attended where the Rockets were present were when I was invited by the organisers – nothing to do with the Rockets. The only one I attended out of the Fareham area was Abingdon Air Show which I was invited to by the organiser to assist with planning for an upcoming air show in Fareham. I also presented prizes at an awards evening at the end of 2018 to which I was invited by PC Morris.
34. Not relevant but I was passing [REDACTED] property to attend a meeting with the Harbourmaster at the end of the same road. And I live 3 miles away and my mother lives around the corner.
35. Untrue.
36. I did not contact the school.
37. Untrue except I was indeed on the telephone to [REDACTED] Fareham’s District Commander, when I witnessed PC Collier’s assault on [REDACTED] which was on the highway outside his home, not hers. [REDACTED] instructed me to call 999.
38. I have no influence to get anyone placed on directed duties albeit this does prove that he was indeed under investigation by professional standards.
40. As you have already stated I did not approve any grant applications therefore PC Colliers’s statements are untrue. I readily agree I give all possible help and support to all community grant applicants.

41. There was no such conversation. And as for saying they no longer needed the ramps – half the ramps were supplied and delivered and I was invited to a training session to see them. The problem was they were not paid for.

MORRIS

47. Not true. The ramps were not free. If they were the grant would not have been approved.
49. This is all hearsay. As well as untrue. FBC did not increase the grant from £5,000 to £15,000. The application was for £15,000.
50. Untrue. [REDACTED] has supplied the evidence for you of PC Morris's text messages, the injuries she received from PC Collier and a willingness to be interviewed.
51. Untrue.
53. Untrue. A council would never insure a councillor to drive a car.

FELICITY ROE

61. The grant system was changed from a reliance on ongoing revenue funding to a limited number of organisations to generally capital grants at my request. This was to increase the amount of funding available for capital grants for organisations looking to improve buildings or purchase equipment. I became Executive Member in May 2018 and within 2 weeks started discussions with officers on the changes which were finalised in June 2018. I then spent months visiting all of the organisations that would be affected by these changes to revenue funding before making the decisions on them as part of the budget setting process in January 2019. As well as a briefing to the Select Committee letters were also sent to Councillors in September 2018 to advise them of the new system I was proposing. This was not something which did not happen until January 2019.

I first met the Rockets in August 2018 so any suggestion of creating a new grant scheme to accommodate a possible grant application seven months later from an organisation I had never met is absurd. At that time, they requested my help in finding them a training ground. The £15,000 grant request was not submitted until March 2019. I exchanged emails with officers following complaints from the applicants that the new online application system had failed.

62. I regularly forewarn officers about grants that I am aware will be submitted as I am very pro-active in signposting potential applicants to the grant scheme. Also, in assisting them on occasion with getting through the paperwork and visiting them. I have assisted organisations in achieving sizeable grant support over the last two years including one to a Hampshire museum for £100,000 agreed by the Leader of

the Council after we visited the site. Also, I was involved in a grant, again agreed by the Leader, to help purchase a countryside site for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. My message here is that I have absolute community focus and work with many organisations to help them achieve their aspirations with support from the county council and other bodies all in support of the Recreation and Heritage aims of my portfolio. I see my role in this as bringing organisations and support together and many organisations have directly benefited from significant capital grants including village halls, churches, community centres, bowling clubs, etc throughout Hampshire.

63. My preferred approach to grants was already in place – it was the subject of the decisions I had made and was formulated in June 2018.
64. The online grant application process was troublesome, and I did indeed receive and pass on complaints about it hence the email exchanges.
65. As officers will I know testify, I have always been very keen to get all applications before a decision day as quickly as possible – I offered to hold these events as often as necessary to get rapid decisions. I even said I was happy to do them weekly if needed and certainly monthly. If an applicant asks me when a decision is to be made, I contact the grants officers to ask.
67. Felicity Roe and I share a passion for horses, so I did mention to her that I was pursuing a long-held ambition in taking my HGV tests to enable me to get a larger lorry for transporting horses. I really do question how that private conversation is in any way relevant to a complaint about the handling of a grant application. I believe I mentioned it twice in conversations by way of small talk before or after one of our regular briefing meetings. Once when I gained the C licence and once when I gained the C+E licence.

For the record I did not speak to her about gaining my licence “throughout March and April”. From my diary my only contact with her during those two months was at three meetings.
68. I do recall in April 2019 finding a proposed decision date inconvenient so asked for it to be moved. Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement.
69. I was offered 7th May in the afternoon but due to having four meetings in Fareham in the afternoon asked if it could be in the morning prior to a 10am meeting. It was set for 9am.

70. The new Leader was appointed by the Council on the morning of 17th May NOT the afternoon of 7th May. On 17th May the new Leader would announce his Executive Members. The date of 7th May therefore had no significance whatever and Mrs Roe is mistaken in her statement.
71. I did not ask Cllr Heron to make the decision. That was a matter for the Leader as I had declared an interest in February and decided not to take the decision. The Leader deputed Cllr Heron to take the decision.
72. I was NOT in the room as my decision day was over and I had left the room. In fact, Cllr Heron advised me at a meeting we had together at 10am that he had made the decision. There were probably six other people in the meeting who would be aware that I left the room, not least the committee clerk.
73. As stated, the decision to move the meeting was because I was unavailable for the initial date. If Mrs Roe or any of her officers had any concerns whatsoever through the process, she could have contacted me. She did not. Also, there were many grant applications on the same agenda, not just the Rockets one.
75. I did not state that FBC would be transferring its grant. I said it had received the same request. In the event it decided not to pay the grant. My query was to state that I had been asked whether the council could transfer the grant.
77. I did say that in my view neither organisation should be paid the grant and it should be open to them to apply again if they wished. Thankfully due to my intervention the grant was not paid to either organisation.
78. You have details of the assault. I am advised that on 19th August 2020 Hampshire Constabulary Professional Standards Department advised the victim in writing that evidence of the assault case is now being reviewed.
81. I do not recall such a conversation and can find no record of such a conversation. If the Director had any concerns about my handling of any issues within my portfolio, she could have raised them with me. No officer ever expressed any concerns about any issues relating to grants and nor was I ever provided with any training on how to handle grant applications.
82. It was natural that I would query the email regarding the grant as I was aware that it was similar to the grant that was originally written up for approval. I was passed from officer to officer until I received an answer. I prefaced each call with the fact that as I had a personal interest, I would not be involved in taking the eventual decision.
87. I discussed Solent Stars' application with officers simply because I was confused to understand why it had not been added to the spreadsheet of applications. I prefaced my comments with the fact that I had an interest and would not be involved in making the decision. There is nothing in writing to that effect as the

grant application was never formalised into the spreadsheet and was withdrawn within six weeks and before it could be considered.

I did indeed show someone a video of me driving a lorry – that was three months after the grant application was withdrawn and approaching a year after I had passed my tests. I really cannot see it of being of any relevance and it concerns me that there is an attempt to conflate the two issues. Again, a private matter that has no place in this investigation.

CLLR HERON

94. I DID leave the room. There was no “rest of the meeting” as the decision Cllr Heron was making was the one and only item for him for decision. I had made my decisions on a number of grants, ended the meeting and left.

CLLR WOODWARD

116. It was on 2nd February 2019 that I sent a spreadsheet to [REDACTED] highlighting my interest and that I would not be taking the eventual decision. This was before the grant application was even submitted.

119. Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement.

127 The other complainant was MR Morris

135. My solicitor advises that he did respond to your email of 27th May 2020.

139. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FINDINGS OF FACT

140

b. The decision day involved grants to many organisations, not just one.

- c. This is untrue. I was not determining the application therefore it was irrelevant whether or not I was any sort of Cabinet member. Any changes to Cabinet positions can be made by whoever is the Leader at any time and without notice. The new Leader was not appointed until 17th May 2019. The date was changed due to a prior engagement I had as described and to which I received an invitation in April 2019.
- e. This is untrue. I was not in the room. I made my decisions on other grants and left.
- f. This is untrue. I made it clear in February 2019 that one of the applicants was known to me therefore I would not be making the decision. This was a full month before the application was even submitted.
- j. I did not support the application. I asked questions around its progress.

141

- b. The evidence from the complainants attributed to [REDACTED] is untrue and is hearsay. Your statement is inferring false motive to my request to change the date.
- c. The comments attributed to me and to [REDACTED] are untrue. Also, the new Leader could not appoint his Cabinet until 17th May when he became the new Leader so the date of 7th May was irrelevant – morning or afternoon. Having consulted my diary, on the afternoon of 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement. The claim by the complainants is therefore false on any balance of probabilities and there is no evidence to support it but plenty to contradict it.
- e. I have stated I was not present, and I was not. Cllr Heron did not state categorically that I was present. Half a dozen other attendees will I hope be able to recall me leaving the room although we are talking about a 10 minute event well over a year ago. As there were 6 other people in the room the balance of probabilities does not suggest I am not telling the truth. You would need to have interviewed all of them which you have not.
- f. There is no requirement to state the nature of an interest – only whether it is personal in which case a Member can take a full part in decision and voting or disclosable pecuniary in which case the Member must take no part in the determination and must leave the room. I had a personal interest so according to the Code could have taken a full part in the process AND decision. In the event I went beyond the requirements and took no part in the decision.
- j. I do dispute this for the reason given above.

157. I did not raise the application at my first decision day. In fact, at that time it had not even been made. My interest and involvement in many applications is extensive; I have visited recipients of regular revenue funding to hear their views, explain mine and generally engage with them and learn more about their organisations. I have also visited a number of organisations prior to applications and after decisions on their grant applications. Sometimes these visits and contacts have resulted in email and telephone exchanges with officers, sometimes they have not. If this level of interest and contact is inappropriate such has never been suggested to me until now. I therefore refute the claim that my interest in these two applications was unusually close.

158. You and Felicity Roe have sought to conflate the matter of applications from these teams with me studying for HGV licences. You appear to be claiming that I supported a grant just so I could drive a particular HGV. I have owned HGVs for years and if I ever want to drive one I can drive my own HGV. There was no connection whatever between the two. My private ambition to achieve further HGV licensing was just that – private. That is why I was reluctant to discuss my private life with you. Your statement that this was the “true motive” for my support for the application is simply not true. This means that the fact I take a true community interest in the progress and council support for many organisations is not possible as I must have some other motive for this. Perhaps also for the 34 years of public service I have given as a Councillor. The fact I have HGV licensing was not a part of the original complaints but is something that you have brought into the investigation to try and find motive for what you appear to have decided to be fact.

159. You state “it was only very shortly before the decision was made” that I notified officers I would not be making the decision myself. In fact, I advised officers on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd February 2019 (your paragraph 116 wrongly states that to have been in April 2019 and that was my fault in not noticing the error in your original record of my statement at paragraph 15) and my comment is attached. This was a full month before the application was even submitted. I therefore advised officers of my interest over three months before the decision was made and for a second time on 12th April and of the reason for it.

I did not “line” anything up and I have not seen in any of the evidence you have gathered any suggestion whatever by any officer that the recommendation to Cllr Heron to approve the grant was anything other than their own recommendation. I have no doubt the officers would have recommended refusal if they had any concerns. An Executive Member can be removed at any time by whoever is the Leader. If I really had “lined” everything up as you state, then whether or not I was still an Executive Member would have been irrelevant.

160. I say again the recommendation to Cllr Heron was the officers’ recommendation. To suggest that any of them would bow to pressure and that such pressure would extend all the way up the line to the Director is discourteous to the officers concerned. The decision day included a number of organisations very keen to see

their grant applications decided and I have already explained why I had the date changed.

161. *3.2 Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of communities within the administrative area of Hampshire County Council and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.*

I am not clear how a grant application is a “representation or enquiry”. You have not provided any evidence that I was influenced by anyone in reaching this conclusion. If helping organisations with grant applications is unfair, inappropriate and partial then I am surprised. I agree I was predisposed to support the application, but I was certainly not predetermined; in fact, I could not have been as I was never going to make the decision.

162. *3.3 Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the County Council's area, or the good governance of the County Council in a proper manner.*

I had no other pressures and certainly no financial interest as I already own my own HGV which I use for my horses. My lifelong ambition to achieve additional HGV licences is nothing whatever to do with an unpaid grant to a motorcycle display team. I booked and paid for the training in 2018 long before the grant applications were discussed or indeed made and can prove same. The fact I made a number of suggestions of onerous conditions on any possible grant award should suggest the good governance of the County Council was high on my list of priorities. As should the fact that despite this only being a personal interest I withdrew from the eventual decision-making. The Code is clear that I could, with a personal interest, have made the decision. I chose not to.

██████████ had no “other pressures” to bring to bear and nor was she “connected to me.” She runs a not-for-profit community interest company.

163. *3.4 Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by placing yourself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way you perform your duties.*

I was clear early on that I had an interest due to knowing one of the applicants. Nobody asked me to elaborate on that. This is the usual way for a personal interest to be declared – that one has such, not precisely what it is. This alleged failure can only be the case if I was intending making a decision on the matters. My judgement is my judgment – views arrived at by me and nobody else. The same will be true of the officers. Their views too are independent and need to go high up an officer chain of command to be approved as recommendations. I did not place myself under any obligations and nobody sought to influence me.

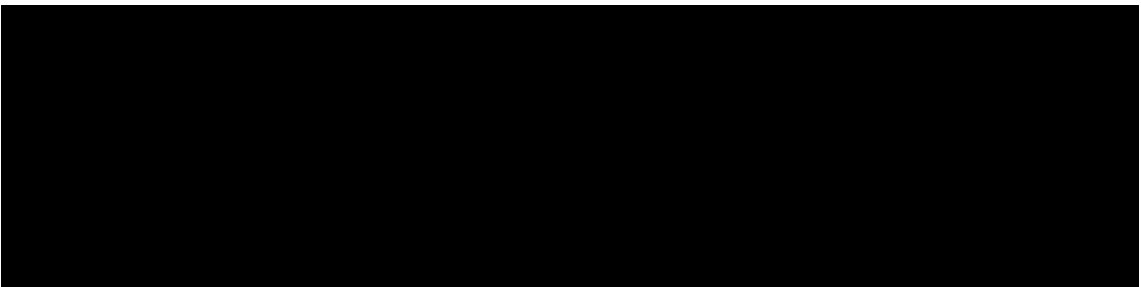
164. *3.7 Contributing to making the County Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible.*

I did declare my interest in the application at the earliest possible stage and stated what it was – before even it became an application and was submitted. I could not do it earlier than that. Nowhere in the Code does it state that the nature of a personal interest must be stated – merely that there is a personal interest. Again, I went further than required and declared that I knew one of the applicants. By his own admission I did not attempt to influence the decision maker and further I left the room while he made his decision.

165. I did declare my interest again and left the room. Nothing could be clearer than that.

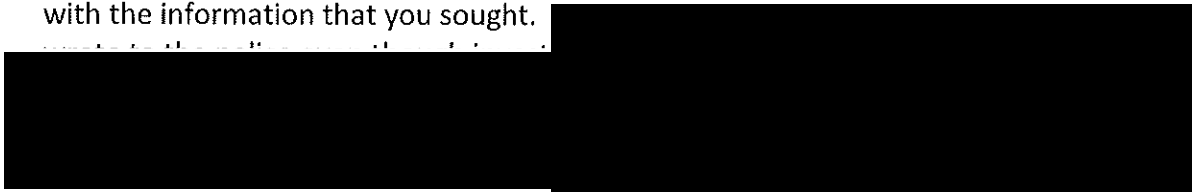
167. I did not refuse to disclose any correspondence with the police – I sent you the detailed letter I wrote to them describing my concerns.

170.



171.

173. I did not refuse to co-operate. I questioned what was being asked for which I construed to be moving into my private life such as my driving licence. You repeatedly avoided answering my questions necessitating me needing to engage a solicitor. You still failed to answer what I believe were reasonable questions but, in the event, to ensure I was being as helpful as possible I instructed him to supply you with the information that you sought.



176. I did not understand your line of questioning and how it related to the enquiry into the complaints and this is why I was reluctant to provide you with information on my HGV licence status as it did not form part of the complaint. After taking my own legal advice because the Council's spare Independent Member would not assist me I was advised that I should answer the questions that were related to the complaints.

178. You state at 165 that you do not find me to have failed to comply with the Code in relation to Part 5. Here you state that I have failed to comply. This is inconsistent. What is your view please?

I would be grateful if you would also confirm in the report that there was no failure by me to comply with the Code of Conduct insofar as it related to the other (£2,000) grants.

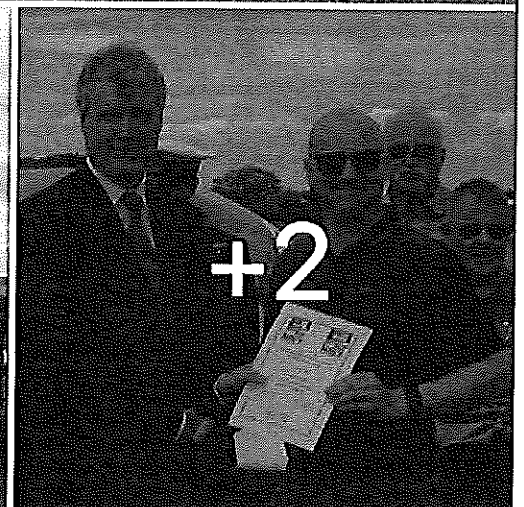
Throughout your report you refer to a [REDACTED]

My overall comment on this remaining issue, you I understand having effectively dismissed the allegations around the two £2,000 grants a [REDACTED] [REDACTED], relates to the officer support around the grant application process.

I have already pointed out that I have not to my knowledge had any Code of Conduct training as a Member of the County Council. I can categorically state that I received no training around the issue around the handling of Recreation & Heritage grant determinations. If any officer had any concerns whatsoever around my handling of or involvement in any grant applications they were bound to pass their concerns on, presumably to their Director (Felicity Roe), or even to the Chief Executive Officer or Monitoring Officer, in order for them to raise them with me if they felt unable to do so. If I had received a single concern from an officer, I would immediately have reviewed the way I dealt with grant applications. I have helped many organisations with their grant applications as the application process is not easy. My motivation in this was purely out of a desire to help the organisations concerned, not for any personal gain for me or anyone I know.

Finally, a number of the conversations with officers took place 6 – 12 months prior to your investigation and I really am not surprised that some of the versions of event do not tally and you do point out that no records were kept of these alleged conversations.

It was great to join Portsmouth Naval Gliding Centre Chief Instructor [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on behalf of the Royal Naval Gliding and Soaring Association at Solent Airport@Daedalus today. Pleased to present the certificates and to enjoy a flight. It is good to see so many visitors to enjoy the facilities we have on offer. As always fantastic to be joined by a Boulton Paul Spitfire.



4,196
People reached

1,363
Page engagements

Boost post

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	7 May 2019
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Nicola Horsey
Rosellen Lambert

Tel: 01932 845423
01962 846022

Email: nicola.horsey@hants.gov.uk
rosellen.lambert@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend funding awards to Culture and Community organisations in Hampshire that have submitted applications to the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.
2. The Report also provides an update on the financial position of the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

Recommendations

3. That the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approves awards from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 totalling £83,860 to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire as outlined in Appendix 2.
4. That the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage defers a decision on a grant to Pilands Wood Community Association to July 2019.

Executive Summary

5. This report seeks approval from the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage for £83,860 of awards to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire.

6. This report gives an update on the application from Pilands Wood Community Association that was deferred on 14 January 2019. It is recommended that a decision on the application is deferred to July 2019.
7. This report also provides an update on the financial position of the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

Contextual Information

Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grants

8. The purpose of this grant stream is to fund projects which provide community benefit and help local communities thrive and/or to help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding. In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump-prime community events and activities. Full details, including what the County Council can and cannot fund, are set out in Appendix 1.
9. Sixteen organisations have applied for funding and the details are set out in Appendix 2.

Pilands Wood Community Association - Investment Funding

10. This application to the Community Investment Fund was deferred at the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage decision day on 14 January 2019.
11. Pilands Wood Community Association is a medium sized community association in Bursledon that serves an area of significant multiple deprivation, ranked in the top 5% in Hampshire and the top 20% in England. It offers guidance, support and advocacy to approximately 2,000 people a year, addressing local needs and delivering activities that include intergenerational bingo, a youth group, low cost parent and toddler group, charity shop and job club.
12. At the time of application, the organisation was not in compliance with the Charity Commission annual returns submission schedule. The organisation's local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), One Community, and Eastleigh Borough Council have been supporting it in bringing its compliance up to date and strengthening its management at the Council's request. Work on this is progressing but has yet to be completed.
13. As the organisation is not yet compliant with the Charity Commission annual returns schedule, it is recommended a decision on this application is deferred to July 2019.

Finance

14. The total draft grants budget for 2019/20 for the portfolio of the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage is £938,000, made up of £813,000 revenue funding and £125,000 capital funding. Of this, £453,000 was awarded to cultural and community organisations at the Executive Member's Decision Day on 14 January 2019, leaving £485,000 for the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

15. Budget Update:

Recreation and Heritage Community Fund budget 2019/20	£485,000
Transferred from Community Buildings Capital Fund 2018/19 (decision day 25 February 2019)	£98,809
Previously awarded (decision day 25 February 2019)	£12,959
Recommendations for approval in this report	£83,860
Remainder available (if all recommendations in this report are approved)	£486,990

Other Key Issues

16. Legal Implications: The Council has wide powers under Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide recreational facilities and to contribute by way of a grant or loan towards the expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities and activities.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire	<u>Date</u> 14 January 2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

A high level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The grants are intended to have a positive impact and advance equality.

Criteria for Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

What is Funded?

The priority of the scheme is to fund projects which:

- Provide community benefit and help local communities thrive
- Help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding

In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump-prime community events and activities.

The programme is not designed to be overly prescriptive.

Applicants must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's [Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017-2021](#). It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas, and features four key aims:

- Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives
- People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment
- People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities

What is not Funded?

The following organisations are not funded under this scheme:

- Individuals
- Services provided solely within the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth City Council and/or Southampton City Council
- Other local authorities, including District, Parish and Town Councils
- Commercial/Profit-Making organisations
- Schools, including pre-schools and colleges

The following projects are not funded under this scheme:

- The purchase of land.
- Capital works that have already been carried out. We cannot retrospectively fund projects; grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future.
- Ongoing staff costs. We may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work.
- Fund-raising activities.
- Projects which meet the aims of other Hampshire County Council grant schemes. Where relevant, applications may be transferred to more appropriate schemes.

Organisations will not be awarded more than one grant per financial year and previously funded projects must be completed before a new application is made.

Grant Criteria and Eligibility

Organisations must be properly constituted with clear and effective local governance and management structures. Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold unallocated reserves in excess of one year's running costs. Where it is judged that unallocated reserves are unreasonably in excess of what is required or not allocated for legitimate purposes, those organisations may receive a reduced grant. All charitable organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

Projects should be well developed with match-funding secured. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.

Hampshire County Council will normally fund up to a maximum grant of £100,000. Please contact CCBS Grants to discuss any proposals in excess of this.

Match funding or clear evidence of seeking match funding is highly desirable although not essential.

We would expect any applications for new buildings or large extensions to show consideration has been given to the development of a [Changing Place](#) even if it is not included in the final project.

All applicants will be expected to have obtained permission from the landlord to undertake the capital work. If required applicants will also be expected to have obtained (or engaged in the process of) planning permission and/or listed buildings consent (if appropriate) to carry out the works.

Where appropriate, depending on the grant sum requested, the organisation will be expected to submit supporting documentation.

Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 Application Assessment Summary

Each grant application has been assessed against the fund criteria (Appendix 1) using a standard template.

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
7th Bramshill (Hook) Scout Group (Hart / Odiham and Hook)	Small extension training room (£20,000)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to build a small room for youth training and leader training in small groups, which would also provide a small meeting for the Scout Group and village organisations. The application is under-developed and lacks evidence of community need or benefit. No application has been submitted to local council/s, and it is not clear how the project shortfall (£7,000) will be met. Project costs are not broken down or supported by evidence.</p> <p>200 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has applied for £4,000 from Tesco Bags for Help (awaiting outcome). Councillor Glen supports the application.</p> <p>As the application is under-developed and the organisation has not sought funding from local council/s, it is recommended the application is not supported.</p>	£9,000	£0
Asian Welfare and Cultural Association (Eastleigh / Eastleigh North and South)	Eastleigh Mela (£17,360)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to support a multi-cultural festival in Eastleigh to take place on 21 July 2019. Funding has already been secured from Eastleigh Borough Council and others, with more expected. The organisation has a good track record in delivering multi-cultural activity to promote community cohesion. While it has been previously supported for similar activity, this is a quality project which supports Council priorities. 10,000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £5,500 of its own funds and secured £4,000 from Eastleigh Borough Council and £1,000 from Eastleigh BID. It is awaiting outcome on applications for £500 from Fair Oak, Bishopstoke, Chandlers Ford & Hedge End Parish Councils (expected 01/06/2019), £1,500 from Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service (expected 30/04/2019), £1,500 from Hampshire Constabulary (expected 30/04/2019). Councillors Clarke and Irish were invited to comment.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The organisation was awarded £3,000 Culture and Community Activity Grants 2018/19 (decision day 09/07/2018) and £3,000 Culture and Community Activity Grants 2017/18 (decision day 15/06/2017). It was supported for similar amounts in prior years.</p> <p>It is recommended the application is supported at the requested amount.</p>	£3,360	£3,360

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust (Fareham / Fareham Sarisbury)	New Rooms Project (£2,000)	The organisation seeks funding to repurpose two rooms on the site into new interpretation spaces, showing visitors what bedrooms would have looked like at the time the Brickworks were in use. There is limited information in the application as to the interpretation or how it would enhance the existing visitor experience. There is no evidence of community consultation or engagement and there is very little information on what the impact of the project will be. The organisation has not applied for funding elsewhere, including other council/s, and has one year's reserves. 600 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit. The organisation will benefit from £850 in-kind support in volunteer time. Councillor Woodward was invited to comment. As the application is under-developed and the organisation has not sought any other sources of funding, including local council/s, it is recommended the application is not supported.	£2,000	£0
Charles Kingsley Society (Hart / Hartley Wintney and Yateley West)	Charles Kingsley Festival 200 (£65,000)	The organisation seeks funding to support two elements (a play and a concert) within the Charles Kingsley bicentennial festival 14-15 June 2019, to be held in Eversley. Previously awarded £3,000 Culture and Community Activity Grant for community engagement activity in 2018/19. Hampshire Cultural Trust assessed the application as well developed and of high quality but noted that it is likely to go ahead regardless of County Council funding. 2,000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit. The organisation has committed £12,000 of its own funds to the project and has secured £2,500 from Duke of Wellington, £5,000 from Corporate funding and £5,000 from Festival Management. It is awaiting the outcome on an application for £14,500 from the Arts Council and expects to generate £14,000 from Box Office Sales and £1,200 from stalls and refreshments. Councillor Simpson fully supports the application. <i>Note: The organisation was awarded £3,000 Culture and Community Activity Grants 2018/19 (decision day 03/09/2018).</i> It is a recommended the application is partially supported with an award of £3,000 towards involving local schools in the festival which would enhance community involvement and support the sustainability of local heritage and culture.	£8,400	£3,000
Coopers Boxing Club	Do more be more for your community	The organisation seeks funding for a new boxing ring and flooring to be installed. This would enable them to build on their offer for young people, particularly with behavioural issues or a history of youth offending where there is a strong evidence base that this	£2,000	£2,000

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
(Test Valley / Romsey Rural)	(£3,500)	<p>activity has a positive impact. The organisation has links with local schools and the police to support relevant signposting. Energise Me and the national governing body see this as a pivotal investment that would support the club to move to the next level. 150 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £500 of its own funds to the project. Councillor Perry was invited to comment.</p> <p>It is recommended the application is supported to the amount requested on condition the organisation secures the remaining £1,000. The organisation should explore funding opportunities from its local council/s to meet this shortfall.</p>		
Cross Barn Odiham (Hart / Odiham and Hook)	Improvement of Kitchen (£32,000)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to support the installation of a new kitchen. As a listed building an extension is not possible, so reconfiguration of the existing kitchen to improve work flow is the best option. This will provide improved facilities for users and increase income generation opportunities to secure the financial sustainability of the venue, which serves a growing community, but one that is increasingly isolated due to reducing public transport links. This project is phase two of a major refurbishment programme to secure the future of the building, which reaches its 500th anniversary in 2032. Hart District Council does not offer an appropriate grant scheme to support this project but £16k has been secured from the LEADER scheme.</p> <p>It is recommended the application is supported. 1,000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £6,000 of its own funds to the project and has secured £16,000 from the Loddon & Test LEADER Programme. Councillor Glen supports the application.</p> <p><i>Note: The organisation was awarded £14,950 Community Buildings Capital Fund 2017/18 (decision day 15/06/2017) towards toilet refurbishment, phase one of the project.</i></p> <p>It is recommended the organisation is awarded up to 29% of capital project costs to a maximum of £9,000.</p>	£9,000	£9,000
Fareham Philharmonic Choir (Fareham / all divisions)	Performance of St John Passion (£14,400)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to support transport costs to deliver a performance of Bach's choral work, the St John Passion, in Chichester Cathedral in April 2020. Accounts suggest the organisation has more than one year's reserves and could cover this cost themselves, particularly as they have a year to raise the required sum. No application has been submitted to Fareham Borough Council as transport costs are not supported through that grant scheme.</p>	£1,000	£0

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
		<p>300 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit. Fareham Councillors were invited to comment. Councillor Latham supports the application. Councillor Price supports the recommendation.</p> <p>It is recommended the application is not supported, but the organisation is invited to develop a new application for a project with a community engagement focus which might better meet the scheme criteria priorities and would have wider community benefit.</p>		
<p>Itchen South District Scout Canoe Centre</p> <p>(Eastleigh / West End and Horton Heath)</p>	<p>Trailer for Transporting Equipment</p> <p>(£4,933)</p>	<p>The organisation seeks funding towards the purchase of a trailer for transporting equipment to and from waterways in support of educational trips, Duke of Edinburgh's award expeditions and safety and rescue training. Assessment notes they cover their operational costs but should develop capacity to meet minor capital costs such as this in the future to improve sustainability. The organisation has not applied to their local council/s and it is not clear how the project shortfall would be made up.</p> <p>400 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £1,000 of its own funds to the project. Councillor Tennent was invited to comment.</p> <p>It is recommended the application is supported to the amount requested on condition a Reserves Policy is developed to address the need to build sufficient funds to meet equipment replacement costs and on condition that the organisation secures the remaining £1,933. The organisation should explore funding opportunities from its local council/s to meet this shortfall.</p>	£2,000	£2,000
<p>Joli Vyann Performance Company</p> <p>(Countywide project)</p>	<p>Movement and Breath workshops</p> <p>(£2,000)</p>	<p>The organisation seeks funding to support breath and movement sessions in activities such as Tai Chi to people with respiratory problems who otherwise may feel physical activity is not for them. The project will be delivered across Hampshire and, as such, local council support is not applicable. The organisation has a good track record of delivering quality projects. Sustainability of the project is unclear, but support of a pilot would enable the organisation to gather an evidence base for future funding from other sources.</p> <p>350 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has applied for £500 from the Arts Council England.</p> <p>It is recommended the application is supported to the amount requested on condition that the Arts Council England application is also successful.</p>	£1,500	£1,500
<p>Petersfield Open Air</p>	<p>Children's Pool Refurbishment</p>	<p>The organisation seeks funding to refurbish, enlarge and deepen its children's pool so that it is compliant with current Health and Safety regulations and can accommodate a broader</p>	£25,000	£15,000

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Swimming Pool (East Hants / Petersfield Hangars and Petersfield Butser)	(£80,000)	<p>children's age range. Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool has a long history dating back to the 50's. Accounts show the organisation has made progress to become more financially sustainable with regard to operational costs and reducing reliance on public funding. The project would increase footfall, improving sustainability through self-generated income and strengthening the organisation's offer to the local community. 5,000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £25,000 of its own funds to the project and has secured £10,000 from National Lottery Awards for All and £6,000 from Friends of Langrish Pool. It is awaiting outcome on an application of £3,000 from East Hampshire County Council (expected outcome 01/07/2019) and expects to generate £11,000 from crowdfunding. Councillors Mocatta and Oppenheimer fully support the application.</p> <p>It is recommended the application is partially supported and the organisation is awarded up to 19% of capital project costs to a maximum of £15,000.</p>		
Sycamore Halls Community Association (Basingstoke and Deane / Basingstoke North West)	New Accessible Toilet Facility (£30,000)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to refurbish thirty-year-old toilets in order to modernise facilities and create an accessible toilet with adult changing space. The changing bench is a high priority as a disability group use the venue on a weekly basis and because the local plan has identified the need for fully accessible facilities for an ageing population. The current management committee is relatively new (formed in 2016) and the organisation is not currently up to date with the Charity Commission. 50 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has secured £15,000 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Councillor Taylor was invited to comment.</p> <p>It is recommended the organisation is awarded up to 50% of capital project costs to a maximum of £15,000 on condition that Charity Commission returns are brought up to date.</p>	£15,000	£15,000
Newnham Club Rooms (Basingstoke and Deane / Loddon)	Newnham Clubroom Storage Extension (£50,000)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to extend the existing storage area which does not provide sufficient capacity for storage of chairs/tables and user groups' equipment; this impacts on the organisation's income generation capability through hires. The organisation has not secured planning permission yet, opting to secure funding first, so there is a risk planning permission may not be granted. The organisation has not yet submitted its most recent annual returns to the Charity Commission.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £15,000 of its own funds to the project and has conditionally secured £17,500 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.</p>	£17,500	£17,500

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
		Councillor Still fully supports the application. It is recommended the organisation is awarded up to 35% of capital project costs to a maximum of £17,500 on condition that Charity Commission returns are brought up to date and on condition that planning permission is secured by Sept 2019 or the award will be forfeit and funds available for reallocation to other applicants.		
The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC (Fareham-based, touring nationally)	The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team lorry (£45,000)	The organisation seeks funding towards the purchase (estimated cost £27,500) and conversion (estimated cost of £17,500) of a vehicle to transport bikes and equipment to events across the country, charging a nominal amount to perform in shows, so children and young people have opportunities to take part in more high-profile displays. The organisation is based in Fareham but performs across the country. It is supported in-kind towards its general running expenses by various commercial sponsors and by Fareham Borough Council which provides a training ground at Solent Airport. It is one of three children's motorcycle display teams in the country and one of two in Hampshire. 100 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit. The organisation has committed £10,000 of its own funds to the project and has applied for £15,000 from Fareham Borough Council (expected outcome 01/05/2019). It expects to generate £2,000 from show income, £3,000 from subscriptions. Fareham Councillors were invited to comment. Councillor Price supports the application. <i>Note:</i> The organisation was awarded £2,000 County Councillor Devolved Grants 2018/19 (decision 04/02/2019). It is recommended the organisation is awarded one-third of project costs to a maximum of £15,000 on condition that match-funding from Fareham Borough Council is secured and that the organisation develops a pricing policy, offers a number of free displays locally and offers a number of free/subsidised places to local children for whom cost would be a barrier to participation.	£15,000	£15,000
The Rude Mechanical Theatre Co (Countywide project)	Ikarus, Inc (£121,733)	The organisation seeks funding to support touring 'Ikarus Inc', an original play created by the company, to outdoor venues in small rural communities across the South of England during summer 2019, including seven villages in Hampshire. This would enable people in rural areas to enjoy cultural activity which otherwise they would have limited access to. The organisation has a good track record of involving local communities in the tour. The amount requested from the Council is a small proportion of the costs, but along with other local authority contributions helps secure Arts Council England funding as evidence of local support.	£500	£500

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
		<p>1,200 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has secured £15,000 from Arts Council England and applied for £500 from East Sussex Arts Partnership (expected outcome 28/02/2019), £500 from Wealden District Council (expected outcome 31/03/2019), £500 from Horsham District Council (expected outcome 31/03/2019) and £2,000 from Leche Trust (expected outcome 08/02/2019). It expects to generate £94,288 from ticket sales, £3,000 from programme sales, £1,000 from Friends donations and to benefit in-kind from £4,445 in hosted accommodation and local support.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The organisation was awarded £1,000 Culture and Community Activity Grants 2018/19 (decision day 05/03/2018) and £1,000 Culture and Community Activity Grants 2017/18 (decision day 21/03/2017).</p> <p>It is recommended the application is supported to the amount requested.</p>		
Waltham Chase Methodist Church (Winchester / Meon Valley)	Intergenerational Community Day (£4,200)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to support a one-day community activity and music event to be held on 1 June 2019, to include performances by local community groups, storytelling, football coaching, games, speakers from Mental Health charities and stalls. The application is brief and lacks evidence of community need or consultation. No other sources of funding have been approached or secured. The application shows income exceeds project costs and there is no shortfall. Clarification from the applicant on this point stated costs had increased to £9,200 with estimated income of £7,000. The event will go ahead regardless, with the difference to be covered by church funds.</p> <p>3,000 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p> <p>The organisation has committed £7,000 of its own funds to the project. Councillor Huxstep supports the application and recommends a grant is awarded.</p> <p>As the event will take place regardless of Council support, no other funding sources have been explored and project costs are unclear, it is recommended this application is not supported.</p>	£3,000	£0
Whitehill and Bordon Town Partnership (East Hants / Whitehill,	Whitehill and Bordon Fun Day (£5,000)	<p>The organisation seeks funding to support an annual free community fun day on 10 August 2019 targeted at low income families, including activity and information stalls. The event promotes community cohesion in an area of regeneration and supports low income families to access services. The application provides little detail or evidence of community need or benefit. No funding has been sought from local council/s.</p> <p>1,500 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit.</p>	£2,500	£0

Organisation (District / Division)	Project Title (Project Costs)	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Bordon and Lindford)		<p>The organisation has committed £500 of its own funds to the project and has applied for £2000 from Tesco (expected outcome 20/05/2019). Councillor Carew was invited to comment.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The organisation was awarded £2,850 Culture and Community Activity Grants 2018/19 (decision day 09/07/2018) towards similar activity and also received awards in 2016/17 and 2015/16 for similar activity.</p> <p>As the organisation has not shown evidence of seeking local council support and has been previously supported for similar activity in three of the last four years, it is recommended the application is not supported.</p>		
TOTAL			£116,760	£83,860

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COMMENTS OF COUNCILLOR SEÁN WOODWARD ON INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

I was brought up in Fareham and have spent my entire working life in healthcare including 25 years in the pharmaceutical industry and the last 13 years running my own healthcare company, LBhealthcare, in Fareham. I have been happily married [REDACTED] for 23 years and our son, [REDACTED] is studying for a master's degree in chemical engineering.

I have been a Councillor for over 34 years on Fareham Borough Council (Leader for the last 21 years) and am in my 16th year as a Member of Hampshire County Council having been Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment and, latterly, Recreation and Heritage.

Why am I telling you this? Because while some of you are colleagues and know something of my political life, I do value my family's private life and never share it publicly. Look at my personal Facebook page and you will find nothing other than a picture of our horses which is a passion I share with our son.

BACKGROUND

14. I asked for my decision day to be changed in April 2019. The Leader of the Council was unchanged at that time; there had not "been a change of Leader" so this part of the allegation is completely without foundation. Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May 2019 I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached (SW1). I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement. I had no further need to be in Winchester that day as the morning's Culture and Communities Select Committee which I always attend was also cancelled which can be easily verified. I was invited by [REDACTED], Chief Instructor for the Royal Navy on 2nd April 2019 (invitation attached - SW2). A couple of weeks later I contacted Nicola Horsey to ask for the decision day to be moved due to the diary clash. I was aware that there were 17 grants falling to be determined. I agreed a date of 7th May 2019 which was suggested not by me but by the democratic services officer in her email to me of 17th April 2019 (contained in SG13). I did not have "extensive contact" with officers about any particular grant, the contact I had was about all 17 grants falling to be determined.

It was the grants officer who stated in her resume of grants in early April that the decision on the Rockets grant and two others should be made in April not any alleged influence by me. Spreadsheet attached as SW3

15. I was contacted by [REDACTED] to ask whether the grant could be made instead to Solent Stars. I said to her that I doubted that would be possible and a fresh application would likely be required but I would ask the question. Wishing to be helpful I did speak to Nicola Horsey and asked her. She suggested that [REDACTED]

should write to her which I understand she did. I did not contact the officers “in support” of this request. I simply asked for advice.

PC COLLIER

23. I have never had a conversation with PC Collier about grants or any other matter, so this is complete fabrication, and no evidence has been supplied in support.
24. A new Cabinet was not being appointed at 10am on that day or even that week. There was not a new Leader of the Council, so this statement too is complete fabrication. In fact, the incoming Leader made it clear that he would be keeping the same Cabinet members and that was common knowledge. I have to assume that this concocted and very inaccurate story came from a political opponent who was a member of the Conservative Party and had openly criticised my leadership, had visited PC Collier (which our local Conservative Association has evidence of in the statement by Chairman [REDACTED] at SW12), and was expelled from the Party a couple of weeks before the complaint was made [REDACTED]. The change of date for the decision day was I understand advised to the Rockets by the council grants officer.
25. By invitation I attended a training event with my son at the end of 2018. I occasionally attended training. The only shows I attended where the Rockets were present were when I was invited by the organisers – nothing to do with the Rockets. The only one I attended out of the Fareham area was Abingdon Air Show which I was invited to by the organiser to assist with planning for an upcoming air show in Fareham. I also presented prizes at an awards evening at the end of 2018 to which I was invited by PC Morris.
27. Not relevant but I was passing [REDACTED] property to attend a meeting with the Harbourmaster at the end of the same road. And I live 3 miles away and my mother lives around the corner.
28. This is complete fabrication as evidenced by [REDACTED] statement (SW11).
29. Complete fabrication except I was indeed on the telephone to [REDACTED] when I witnessed PC Collier’s assault on [REDACTED] which was on the highway outside his home, not hers. [REDACTED] instructed me to immediately call 999 as any member of the public would.
30. [REDACTED]
32. As the investigator has already stated I did not approve any grant applications therefore PC Collier’s statements are a complete fabrication without foundation

and no evidence is supplied to support this. I readily agree I give all possible help and support to all community grant applicants, which I see as part of my role.

33. There was no such conversation, so this again is a complete fabrication without foundation and no evidence has supplied to support this. And as for saying they “no longer needed the ramps” – half the ramps were supplied and delivered, and I was invited to a training session to see them. The problem was I understand that they were not paid for.

PC MORRIS

38. Not true. The ramps were not free. If they were the grant would not have been approved.
40. This is all hearsay. As well as untrue. Fareham Borough Council did not increase the grant from £5,000 to £15,000. The application was for £15,000 as can be evidenced in the original application.
41. Complete fabrication. [REDACTED] has supplied the evidence for the investigator of [REDACTED], pictures of the injuries she received from [REDACTED] and expressed her willingness to be interviewed by the investigator which for some reason he did not take up.
42. By PC Morris’s own statement the information about when the grant would be discussed came from the council, not me.
43. Having just stated that he was advised by the council about the grant PC Morris contradicts himself and says he had all the information from [REDACTED].
44. Untrue. A council would never insure a councillor to drive a car. To suggest otherwise is ludicrous. Again, no evidence is supplied.

FELICITY ROE

51. The grant system was changed from a reliance on ongoing revenue funding given to a limited number of organisations to generally capital grants at my request. This was to increase the amount of funding available for capital grants for organisations looking to improve buildings or purchase equipment. I became Executive Member in May 2018 and within 2 weeks started discussions with officers on the changes which were finalised in June 2018. I met the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roy Perry as well as the Director immediately after taking office to discuss my proposals and wrote to him in detail about them in June 2018 to seek his support. (His statement [SW4] and my email [SW5] attached). I then spent months visiting all of the organisations that would be affected by these changes to revenue funding before I made decisions on them as part of the budget-setting process in January 2019. As

well as a briefing to the Culture and Communities Select Committee letters were also sent to Councillors in September 2018 (attached SW6) to advise them of the new system that I was proposing. This was not something which suddenly happened in January 2019. I also exchanged emails with many other groups about the launch of the new scheme of which just two are attached (SW7 and SW8)

I first met the Rockets in August 2018 so any suggestion of creating a new grant scheme to accommodate a possible grant application seven months later from an organisation I had never met is absurd as well as untrue. In August 2018 the Rockets requested my help in finding them a training ground. The £15,000 grant request was not submitted until March 2019. I exchanged emails with officers following complaints from the applicants that the new online application system had failed.

Mrs Roe is correct to say the new system was not formally approved until January 2019. Her inference that this was all done in that month when the process of development of the new system was finalised in June 2018 is inaccurate but perhaps unsurprising as she did not become the Director until December 2018 and therefore had no involvement in the evolution of the new system, so would not be aware of any of the foregoing facts.

52. I regularly forewarn officers about grants that I am aware will be submitted as I am very pro-active in signposting potential applicants to the grant scheme. Also, in assisting them on occasion with any queries on the paperwork and visiting them which I see as part of my role. I have assisted organisations in achieving sizeable grant support over the last two years including one to a Hampshire museum for £100,000 agreed by the Leader of the Council after we both visited the site. Also, I was involved in a grant, again agreed by the Leader, to help purchase a countryside site for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. My message here is that I have absolute community focus and work with many organisations to help them achieve their aspirations with support from the County Council and other bodies all in support of the Recreation and Heritage aims of my portfolio. I see my role in this as bringing organisations and support together and many organisations have directly benefited from capital grants without which their dreams would never be realised including village halls, churches, community centres, bowling clubs, etc throughout Hampshire.
53. My preferred approach to grants was already in place – it was the subject of the decisions I had made and was formulated in June 2018.
54. The online grant application process was troublesome, and I did indeed receive and pass on complaints about it hence the email exchanges.
55. As can be seen from the emails they all related to the difficulties in submitting the grant application online. I did not support the application in any of them. There were 4 emails from me in response to the 4 from the grants officer all included in SG13. I did, unsurprisingly, ask when the application would be ready for decision. None of the emails related to the application, they all related to the failed online

application process which I highlighted so the council could rectify it and prevent further complaints and frustration from this and other groups.

57. Felicity Roe and I share a passion for horses, so I did mention to her that I was pursuing a long-held ambition in taking my HGV tests to enable me to get a larger lorry for transporting horses. I really do question how that private conversation is in any way relevant to a complaint about the handling of a grant application. I believe I mentioned it twice in conversations by way of small talk before or after one of our regular briefing meetings.
58. I do recall in April 2019 finding a proposed decision date clashed with another engagement as I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May 2019 is on it and is attached at SW1. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement. I had no further need to be in Winchester that day as the morning's Culture and Communities Select Committee which I always attend was also cancelled. I was invited by [REDACTED] Chief Instructor for the Royal Navy, on 2nd April 2019 (invitation attached at SW2). Some days later after my annual leave I contacted Nicola Horsey to ask for the decision day to be moved. I was aware that there were 17 grants falling to be determined and I was keen to make the decisions as soon as possible.

It was the grants officer who stated in her resume of grants in early April that the decision on the Rockets grant and two others should be made in April and simply noted in May. Spreadsheet attached at SW3.

59. I was offered 7th May in the afternoon by the democratic services officer. It was not my suggestion but due to having four diarised meetings in Fareham in the afternoon I asked if it could be in the morning prior to a 10am meeting. It was set for 9am.
60. The new Leader was appointed by the Council on the morning of 17th May NOT the afternoon of 7th May. On 17th May the new Leader would announce his Executive Members. The date of 7th May therefore had no significance whatever and Mrs Roe is mistaken in her statement. The incoming Leader had made it clear well before his election that he would be retaining the existing Cabinet members as did the unsuccessful leadership candidates. There was never the slightest chance of a change in cabinet members.
61. I did not ask Cllr Heron to make the decision. That was a matter for the Leader as I had declared an interest in February (spreadsheet submitted on 2nd February 2020 attached as SW9) and decided not to take the decision. The Leader deputed Cllr Heron to take the decision.
62. I was NOT in the room as my decision day was over and I had left the room. In fact, Cllr Heron advised me at a subsequent meeting that we had together at 10am that he had made the decision. He would not have done that if I had been at his side

throughout. There were probably six other people in the meeting who would be aware that I left the room, not least the committee clerk. None were interviewed.

63. As stated, the decision to move the meeting was because I was unavailable for the initial date. If Mrs Roe or any of her officers had any concerns whatsoever through the process, she could have contacted me. She did not. Also, there were sixteen other grant applications on the same agenda, not just the Rockets one. The emails related to the online application process failings, not the merits or otherwise of the application. As per Mrs Roe's email of 17th April 2019 she clearly had in mind (albeit mistakenly) that the decision to move the decision day was in relation to the Rockets grant application. She even went so far as to write "It seems strange as the lorry won't be ready for this summer season." It would appear therefore she had decided on the reason for the date change with no evidence. If she had asked me, I would have explained the reason. She seems to have forgotten that 17 applications fell to be determined, not one.
65. I did not state that FBC would be transferring its grant. I said it had received the same request. In the event it decided not to pay the grant. I was contacted by [REDACTED] to ask whether the grant could be made instead to Solent Stars. I said to her that I doubted that would be possible and a fresh application would likely be required but I would ask the question. I did ask Nicola Horsey and she suggested that [REDACTED] should write to her which I understand she did.
67. I did say that in my view neither organisation should be paid the grant and it should be open to them to apply again if they wished. Thankfully, the grant was not paid to either organisation, thereby protecting the reputation of the County Council.
68. The investigator has details of the assault that I witnessed. [REDACTED]
71. I do not recall such a conversation and can find no record of such a conversation. If the Director had any concerns about my handling of any issues within my portfolio, she could and indeed should have raised them with me at the time. No officer ever expressed to me any concerns about any issues relating to grants and nor was I ever provided with any training on how to handle grant applications.
72. It was natural that I would query the email regarding the grant as I thought that it was similar to the grant that was originally written up for approval. I was passed from officer to officer until I received an answer. I prefaced each call with the fact that, as I had a personal interest, I would not be involved in taking the eventual decision.
73. The applicant asked me when the decision would be made. I saw no reason not to ask the grants officer because I was confused to understand why it had not been added to the spreadsheet of applications.

75. Given that on 22nd October 2019 I received an email stating that the Solent Stars grant should not be awarded yet apparently “in early November the grants team advised [REDACTED] that the application would not be processed in time for the November decision day” is a bit strange but was in any event overtaken by the withdrawal of the application.

77. I prefaced all my comments with the fact that I had an interest and would not be involved in making the decision. There is nothing in writing to that effect as the grant application was never formalised into the spreadsheet and was withdrawn within six weeks and before it could be considered.

I did indeed show someone a video of me driving a lorry – that was three months after the grant application was withdrawn and approaching a year after I had passed my tests. I really cannot see it as being of any relevance and it concerns me that there is an attempt to conflate the two issues. Again, a private matter that has no relevance or place in this investigation.

CLLR HERON

84. I DID leave the room. There was no “rest of the meeting” as the decision Cllr Heron was making was the one and only item for him for decision. I had made my decisions on 16 grants, ended the meeting, left and did not return. Not surprisingly Cllr Heron’s comments are really quite vague given that he was being interviewed nearly a year after what would have probably been to him an inconsequential 5-minute event that is difficult to recall after such a long period.

CLLR WOODWARD

97. It was 21st August 2019 that PC Morris and [REDACTED] first came to see me on behalf of the Rockets. I had never heard of them prior to that. It was the first time I had met or spoken to either of them.

106. It was on 2nd February 2019 that I sent a spreadsheet to Miss Lambert highlighting my interest and that I would not be taking the eventual decision. This was before the grant application was even submitted. I attach that in evidence (SW9) including the date stamp showing that I made the statement on that date, not April 2019, as stated (SW10). I did make a similar comment on the April 2019 spreadsheet when it can be seen (SW3) that it was the grants officer who made the suggestion that an early decision should be made by the end of April, not me. It appears from her comments on this application and others that the decision would be an officer decision and merely noted at my May decision day.

109. Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May 2019 I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the

originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached (SW1). I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement. I had no further need to be in Winchester that day as the morning's Culture and Communities Select Committee which I always attend was also cancelled. I was invited by [REDACTED] Chief Instructor for the Royal Navy on 2nd April 2019 (invitation attached - SW2). A couple of weeks later I contacted Nicola Horsey to ask for the decision day to be moved. I was aware that there were 17 grants falling to be determined and I was keen to make the decisions as soon as possible. I agreed a date of 7th May 2019 which was suggested not by me but by the democratic services officer. I did not have "extensive contact" with officers about any particular grant. I had contact about all 17 grants.

It was the grants officer who stated in her resume of grants in early April 2019 (SW3) that the decision on the Rockets grant and two others should be made in April.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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- a. I neither chased officers nor pressed for decisions.
- b. The decision day involved grants to 17 organisations, not just one.
- c. This is untrue. I was not determining the application therefore it was irrelevant whether or not I was any sort of Cabinet member. Any changes to Cabinet positions can be made by whoever is the Leader at any time and without notice. The new Leader was not appointed until 17th May 2019. The date was changed due to a prior engagement I had as described and to which I received an invitation in April 2019.

I did make a comment on the April 2019 spreadsheet when it can be seen (attached at SW3) that it was the grants officer who made the suggestion that an early decision should be made by the end of April, not me. It appears from her comments on this application and others that the decision would be an officer decision and merely noted at my May decision day.

- e. I was not in the room. I made the decisions on 16 other grants and left.
- f. This is untrue. I made it clear in February 2019 that one of the applicants was known to me therefore I would not be making the decision. This was a full month before the application was even submitted and 3 months before the decision fell to be made. Of course, a personal interest allows the Member making the declaration to take a full part in the decision-making process.

- g. By the time the decision was made [REDACTED] was no longer an employee of my company.
- j. I did not support the application. I asked questions around its progress. As it never made its way to me for comment I could not have supported it or otherwise.

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- a. The claim that I “chased officers and pressed for decisions” is certainly contradicted by the evidence. The grants submission system had failed, and I highlighted that fact.
- b. The evidence from the complainants attributed to [REDACTED] is untrue and is hearsay as demonstrated in her witness statement and attachments (SW11). The investigator’s statement is inferring false motive to my request to change the date which I have already explained.
- c. The comments attributed to me and to [REDACTED] are untrue as per her statement (SW11). Also, the new Leader could not appoint his Cabinet until 17th May when he became the new Leader so the date of 7th May was irrelevant – morning or afternoon. Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May 2019 I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached (SW1). I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement. I had no further need to be in Winchester that day as the morning’s Culture and Communities Select Committee which I always attend was also cancelled. I was invited by [REDACTED] Chief Instructor for the Royal Navy on 2nd April 2019 (invitation attached – SW2). A couple of weeks later I contacted Nicola Horsey to ask for the decision day to be moved. I was aware that there were 17 grants falling to be determined and I was keen to make the decisions as soon as possible. I agreed a date of 7th May 2019 which was suggested by the democratic services officer, not by me. The claim by the complainants is therefore false on any balance of probabilities and there is no evidence to support it but plenty to contradict it.

It was the grants officer who stated in her resume of grants in early April that the decision on the Rockets grant and two others should be made in April. (Spreadsheet attached as SW3).

- e. I have stated I was not present, and I was not. Cllr Heron did not state categorically that I was present. Half a dozen other attendees would I hope be able to recall me leaving the room although we are talking about a 5-minute event that happened 19 months ago. As there were 6 other people in the room the balance of probabilities does not suggest I am not telling the truth. The investigator would need to have interviewed all of them which he did not.

- f. There is no requirement to state the nature of an interest – only whether it is personal in which case a Member can take a full part in decision and voting or disclosable pecuniary in which case the Member must take no part in the determination and must leave the room. I had a personal interest so according to the Code could have taken a full part in the process AND decision. In the event I went beyond the requirements and took no part in the decision.
- j. I do dispute this for the reason given above.
- k. This was not “accepted” by me. It is a matter of fact. But the two elements of obtaining a licence and driving the lorry are separated by a year so are of no significance or even a part of the complaints.
134. I was not “heavily” involved, and nor did I show “extensive” interest. Those are adjectives added by the investigator. I did not raise the application at my first decision day. I had other decision days prior to January 2019. In fact, at that time an application had not even been made. My interest and involvement in many applications is extensive; I have visited recipients of regular revenue funding to hear their views, explain mine and generally engage with them and learn more about their organisations. I have also visited a number of organisations prior to applications and after decisions on their grant applications. Sometimes these visits and contacts have resulted in email and telephone exchanges with officers, sometimes they have not. If this level of interest and contact is inappropriate such has never been suggested to me until now. I therefore refute the claim that my interest in these two applications was “unusually close.”
135. The investigator and Felicity Roe have sought to conflate the matter of applications from these teams with me studying for HGV licences. They appear to be claiming that I supported a grant just so I could drive a particular HGV. I have owned HGVs for years and if I ever want to drive one, I can drive my own HGV. There was no connection whatever between the two. My private ambition to achieve further HGV licensing was just that – private. That is why I was reluctant to discuss my private life with the investigator. The investigator’s statement that this was the “true motive” for my support for the application is simply not true. The fact I have an HGV licence was not a part of the original complaints but is something that the investigator has brought into the investigation to try and find motive for what he appears to have decided to be fact. The claim is preposterous. I have owned HGVs for the last decade and, if I was that desperate to drive one, I would drive my own.
136. The investigator states “it was only very shortly before the decision was made” that I notified officers I would not be making the decision myself. In fact, I advised officers on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd February 2019 (paragraph 106 wrongly states that to have been in April 2019 and that was my fault in not noticing the error in the original record of my statement at paragraph 15) and my comment is attached (SW9). This was a full month before the application was even submitted. I therefore advised officers of my interest over three months before the decision was made and for a second time on 12th April and of the reason for it. It can be seen (attached at SW3)

that it was the grants officer who made the suggestion that an early decision should be made by the end of April, not me. It appears from her comments on this application and others that the decision would be an officer decision and merely noted at my May decision day.

I did not “line” anything up and I have not seen in any of the evidence the investigator gathered any suggestion whatever by any officer that the recommendation to Cllr Heron to approve the grant was anything other than their own recommendation. I have no doubt the officers would have recommended refusal if they had any concerns. An Executive Member can be removed at any time by whoever is the Leader. If I really had “lined” everything up as the investigator states, then whether or not I was still an Executive Member would have been irrelevant.

137. I say again the recommendation to Cllr Heron was the officers’ recommendation. To suggest that any of them would bow to pressure and that such pressure would extend all the way up the line to the Director is discourteous to the officers concerned. The decision day included 16 other organisations very keen to see their grant applications decided and I have already explained why I had the date changed. I was not as claimed “extremely” active, another adjective added by the investigator. I was active on all applications as appropriate. I did not “press” officers and the change to the date of the decision day was as already demonstrated of no relevance. I had a simple diary clash.
138. These are subjective comments. I was not influenced in any way and was impartial. Even suggesting a number of onerous conditions be applied to the application which, in the event, led to it failing as one of those conditions was the agreement of Fareham Borough Council to also make an identical grant.
139. These are subjective comments. I had no personal interest in using my HGV licence for a particular lorry and have seen no evidence suggesting otherwise. As I have stated I have my own HGV and have done for years. Nor have I seen any evidence of pressure exerted upon me by [REDACTED] in the matter of the grant. It is only because of my practising good governance that in the unfortunate events surrounding the Rockets and the assault by one director on another that the reputation of the county council in this matter remains intact as the grant was not paid.
140. While there was no requirement to state the nature of my interest I did so at the outset, prior to the grant application even being submitted. I could not have declared that interest any earlier. I was therefore not placed under any obligation and certainly exercised entirely independent judgement as shown by the evidence of my declaration which the investigator has chosen to exclude from his pack despite it having been in his possession and forming a vital part of my defence against his allegations.

141. While there was no requirement to state the nature of my interest I did so at the outset, prior to the grant application even being submitted. I could not have declared that interest any earlier. I was therefore not placed under any obligation and certainly exercised entirely independent judgement as shown by the evidence of my declaration which the investigator has chosen to exclude from his pack despite it having been in his possession and forming a vital part of my defence against his allegations. The decision-making process was therefore totally open and transparent.
142. I DID declare my interest and leave the room.
148. I asked for the date to be brought forward because of a diary clash. Nothing more. There was no requirement for any reason to be given by me beyond the self-evident fact that I could not attend the original date. I was asked on 2nd April 2019 to attend the Royal Navy event on 23rd May 2019. If the investigator wished for that information, he only had to ask. In any event I have attached the evidence. To have made the decision day later would have been most unfair on the 17 grant applicants so I asked for it to be made earlier. In the event it was set for 2 weeks earlier. 7th May not 10th May as stated in error by the investigator. The grants officer, as the evidence shows, stated that three of the grants should be decided in April.

Portfolio changes can be made at any time by whoever is the Leader.

Unfortunately for the investigator's narrative the complainants' story about the date change does not fit the facts either in timings, facts or dates. To suggest otherwise is incredible in the extreme. I have to assume that this concocted and very inaccurate story came from a political opponent who was a member of the Conservative Party, had visited PC Collier, and was expelled from the Party at around the time the complaint was made [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This is evidenced by the Chairman of the local Conservative Party, [REDACTED] in his evidence attached as SW12 as well as [REDACTED] in SW11.

149. Again, there were 17 grants to be considered. The investigator states that I asked for a particular grant's determination to be brought forward. My request was for all 17 applications to be heard on an earlier date as I could not make the original date. It is the grants officer who suggested earlier determination.
150. I did not remain in the room when the decision was made. It is unfortunate that the decision records are not complete, and I hope that will be changed in the future such that similar errors of recollection cannot occur.
153. The declaration I made was in a timed and dated spreadsheet which was made available to the investigator. It completely disproves his oft-repeated assertion including at paragraphs 140 and 141 that I did not make my declaration until very late in the process. He failed to supply the Panel with the evidence despite it being in his possession, so I have done so. I did make a similar comment on the April 2019 spreadsheet when it can be seen (attached at SW3) that it was the grants officer

who made the suggestion that an early decision should be made by the end of April, not me. It appears from her comments on this application and others that the decision would be an officer decision and merely noted at my May decision day.

154. I am not seeking to “hide behind” anything and such comments really do not assist with the rational consideration of the evidence. Someone seeking to “hide behind” something does not then publicly declare a personal interest in the matter. The investigator seems to be inferring that if officers were aware of the alleged (by him) involvement (by me) in the Rockets or the grant application they would have reached a different recommendation. I fail to see how Member involvement in a community group (there was none) or in assisting with a failed online process would affect proper consideration of the merits of an application. And of course, the officers were aware of my inquiry around the application process failure as it forms a part of the evidence.
155. If a resident asks for help in guidance or advice, I will always provide it. That is what Councillors do. I think it a very tenuous claim to say that assisting at the applicant’s request with the submission process of an application for a grant is the same as making a representation to the Council.
156. I have demonstrated that there were no pressures upon me regarding this application.
157. I am pleased that the investigator now accepts that I did not make my declaration at a late stage as he originally claimed. Now he criticises the detail of the interest. No detail of the interest is required, only that there was one. I however clearly declared why I felt I had an interest at the time before there even was an application to consider. In fact, as my declaration was due to one of the applicants working for my company and that no longer being the case by the time of the determination of the grant even that interest had gone away.

Still the investigator talks about bringing forward a determination date albeit he cannot prove motive. Also, that I supported the applicant to “complete” the application whereas that completion was in reality the problematic submission of the application through a faulty online portal. And as for “pressurising” officers – the definition of pressurising is “strongly persuading someone to do something they do not want to do.” I have seen no evidence that I did anything of the sort. I simply asked in passing when the application would be ready for a decision. This in no way makes the decision-making other than fully open and transparent.

158. I see no plausibility in attempting to link my driving licence status to unpaid and withdrawn grant applications to suggest motive. Such elements were not a part of the complaint and their only relevance appears to be to someone casting around in vain for motive. The investigator has no idea when I had driving lessons or when I took the required driving tests. Yet he seeks to link that element of my private life to unrelated grant applications. In the event of course I did answer the questions asked

about my driving licence status but still feel them not to be relevant to the original complaints.

The investigator has chosen to exclude the spreadsheets where I exchanged information with the grants officer (SW9, SW10 and SW3) and half of the correspondence with my solicitor (SW13) in which his questions were answered and evidence was supplied by [REDACTED] and photographs of the injuries received from [REDACTED]. These exchanges also confirmed that [REDACTED] was happy to be interviewed by the investigator, but he chose to exclude her from his investigation. Why, given that every element of the complaints was attributed to what she had allegedly said to the complainants, was she not interviewed?

Contrary to his statement about me refusing to answer his questions I actually answered all of the investigator's questions and supplied documents that he requested, and he confirmed receipt of same (SW13).

COMMENTS ON THE ALLEGED BREACHES EVEN THOUGH THE INVESTIGATOR HAS NOW REMOVED THIS SECTION FROM HIS REPORT

3.2 Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of communities within the administrative area of Hampshire County Council and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.

I am not clear how a grant application submission is a "representation or enquiry". You have not provided any evidence that I was influenced by anyone in reaching this conclusion. If helping organisations with grant applications is unfair, inappropriate and partial then I am surprised. I agree I was predisposed towards the application, but I was certainly not predetermined; in fact, I could not have been as I was never going to make the decision.

3.3 Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the County Council's area, or the good governance of the County Council in a proper manner.

I had no other pressures and certainly no financial interest as I already own my own HGV which I use for my horses. My lifelong ambition to achieve additional HGV licences is nothing whatever to do with an unpaid grant to a motorcycle display team. I booked and paid for the training in 2018 long before the grant applications were discussed or indeed made and can prove same. The fact I made a number of suggestions of onerous conditions on any possible grant award should suggest the good governance of the County Council was high on my list of priorities. As should the fact that despite this only being a personal interest I withdrew from the eventual decision-making. The Code is clear that I could, with a personal interest, have made the decision. I chose not to.

██████████ had no “other pressures” to bring to bear and nor was she “connected to me.” She runs a not-for-profit community interest company as a hobby to support children.

3.4 Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by placing yourself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way you perform your duties.

I was clear early on that I had an interest due to knowing one of the applicants. Nobody asked me to elaborate on that. This is the usual way for a personal interest to be declared – that one has such, not what it is. This alleged failure could only be the case if I was intending making a decision on the matters. My judgement is my judgment – views arrived at by me and nobody else. The same will be true of the officers. Their views too are independent and need to go high up an officer chain of command to be put forward as recommendations. I did not place myself under any obligations and nobody sought to influence me.

3.7 Contributing to making the County Council’s decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible.

I did declare my interest in the application at the earliest possible stage and stated what it was – before even it became an application and was submitted. I could not do it earlier than that. Nowhere in the Code does it state that the nature of a personal interest must be stated – merely that there is a personal interest. Again, I went further than required and declared that I knew one of the applicants. By the investigator’s own admission, I did not attempt to influence the decision maker and further I left the room while he made his decision.

FINAL COMMENT ON REPORT

I have already pointed out that I have not to my knowledge had any Code of Conduct training as a Member of the County Council although of course I always do my utmost to abide by it. I can categorically state that I received no training around the handling of Recreation & Heritage grant determinations. If any officer had any concerns whatsoever around my handling of or involvement in any grant applications they were bound to pass their concerns on, presumably to their Director (Felicity Roe), or even to the Chief Executive Officer or Monitoring Officer, in order for them to raise them with me if they felt unable to do so. If I had received a single concern from an officer, I would immediately have reviewed the way I dealt with grant applications. I have helped many organisations with advice on their grant applications as the application process is not easy. My motivation in this was purely out of a desire to help the organisations concerned, not for any personal gain for me or anyone I know.

Finally, a number of the conversations with officers took place 6 – 12 months prior to the investigation and I really am not surprised that some of the versions of event do

not tally and the investigator does point out that no records were kept of these alleged conversations.

The allegations against me have already been considered by a number of other bodies and dismissed. These include Hampshire Constabulary, The Conservative Party, Fareham Borough Council and recently the Local Government Ombudsman.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Councillor Seán Woodward
24th November 2020



Woodward, Cllr S

Mon 21/01/2019 19:00

To: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

The link you need will be here in about a week. I specifically included uniformed children's organisations in the criteria.

www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-funds-list?filter=.Culture-Communities-and-Business-Services

I look forward to hearing more about your project.

Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
 County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



[Reply](#) | [Forward](#)

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 January 2019 18:03

To: sean@[Redacted].co.uk

Subject: The Recreation and Heritage Fund

Dear Mr Woodward,

I read with interest that you have launched the above fund. I run a Girls' Brigade group in Fareham and wondered if we could apply. However, the only information I can find appears to relate to funds already allocated. Please would you advise.

Thank you,



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Woodward, Cllr S

Mon 21/01/2019 18:56



To: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

The form will be at this link within a week www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-funds-list?filter=.Culture-Communities-and-Business-Services

Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

Reply

Forward

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 January 2019 18:43

To: Woodward, Cllr S

Subject: [Redacted]

Dear Councillor,

I saw information about the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund but I failed to find an application form. Please would you send or provide a link to the application form?

Many thanks and kind regards

[Redacted] Itchen South District Canoe Centre

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From: [REDACTED]@trethowans.com>

Sent: 19 May 2020 12:25

To: [REDACTED]@Weightmans.com>

Subject: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to [REDACTED]. The sender name was [REDACTED] and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]@trethowans.com

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email yesterday.

Whilst we appreciate that it is for you to conduct your investigation as you see fit, equally my client has a right to privacy in relation to his personal, private life and as I said in my original email to you one of the main reasons why he took legal advice was because of his concerns that your investigation was straying into those areas which, in his view, are not relevant to the central issues of your investigation.

In response to your summarization of our client's responses:-

1 My client never said that one of the complainants gave him this information. A member of the team placed the orders with the ramp suppliers and [REDACTED] arranged the collection of the ramps. She can certainly confirm that there was never any suggestion of the ramps being free. The value of the ramps was around £8,000 but the suppliers agreed to supply them for £2,000. There were four ramps and three were supplied. Half the order by value was supplied. When no money was forthcoming the final ramp, the largest, a car ramp, was withheld.

2 Correct, the relevance of this question remains beyond us. How would our client know whether he was videoed driving the lorry. To put this matter to bed he does have the necessary licence and he has driven a number of lorries including the Solent Stars one in February 2020.

3 You do not provide in your email the assurance that our client requested in our last email in relation to the keeping of this letter confidential so that it will not be reproduced in any shape or form in your report into the investigation.

4 We also understand that [REDACTED] is prepared to release the photographs of her injuries from [REDACTED] unprovoked assault plus the text messages that she received from [REDACTED], and to be interviewed by you if you feel the need to do so, but only on the basis that the sensitive documents will not be published by you in any shape or form in your report [REDACTED]

We look forward to receiving the requested assurances.

Regards.

[REDACTED]
For and on behalf of Trethowans LLP

T:

M:

F:

Trethowans LLP, The Pavilion, Botleigh Grange Business Park, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 2AF, Switchboard: +44 (0) 23 8032 1000

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TRETHOWANS

Law. As it should be.

From: [REDACTED]@trethowans.com>
Sent: 19 May 2020 15:03
To: [REDACTED]@Weightmans.com>
Subject: RE: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to [REDACTED]. The sender name was [REDACTED] and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] we are a bit confused by your e mail -do you not now want the additional information we have said we will provide once we get your assurance re its publication?

From: [REDACTED]@Weightmans.com]
Sent: 19 May 2020 14:32
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

As a result of your answers I will need to make some further inquiries which I will hope to conclude as quickly as possible.

I will send you a copy of my draft report as soon as it is produced.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Partner
Weightmans LLP



Tel: [REDACTED]
DDI: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@Weightmans.com

<https://www.weightmans.com>

128 specialism rankings and 276 individual rankings in Chambers and Legal 500



Please send all communications electronically. In light of the government's recent advice, we have limited capacity to handle incoming or outgoing post.

We will accept service of proceedings electronically if proceedings are sent to <mailto:serviceofproceedings@weightmans.com>

From: [REDACTED]@Weightmans.com]

Sent: 19 May 2020 15:22

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

Dear [REDACTED]

I would think that you and your client would be aware that I cannot give that assurance. As I explained to your client the investigation process is confidential but once it is completed it will be a matter for the Council to decide what steps to take, if any. This could include a hearing before the standards committee and it would be for that committee to decide what information to publish in accordance with the provisions of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The presumption would be that information would be published. Whilst there may be some grounds for not publishing some or even all of the information that would need to be judged applying the relevant law at the time and would not be my decision to make. So I cannot give the assurance requested and have never done so in any investigation I have carried out even though it is not uncommon for investigations to deal with sensitive issues.

Of course it is possible that the matter would not proceed to a hearing and if it did the Council would no doubt consider any representations that any materials should be kept confidential. However, it would have to consider any such representations at the relevant time and could not give an assurance of confidentiality in advance.

I hope this clarifies the position. If you are willing to provide the information on the basis it will be kept confidential but may be published by the Council at some later point with such a decision would be based on the relevant legal provisions then please let me know. If not I will proceed on the basis that you are not supplying it.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Partner

Weightmans LLP



Tel: [REDACTED]

DDI [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@Weightmans.com

<https://www.weightmans.com>

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From: [REDACTED]@Weightmans.com]
Sent: 26 May 2020 10:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for sending these documents.

I assume as you have not included any correspondence from the police to Cllr Woodward he has not received any? I would be grateful if you could confirm.

Regards.

[REDACTED]

Partner
Weightmans LLP



Tel: [REDACTED]
DDI: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@Weightmans.com
<https://www.weightmans.com>

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From: [REDACTED]@trethowans.com>
Sent: 21 May 2020 09:25
To: [REDACTED]@Weightmans.com>
Subject: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to [REDACTED] The sender name was [REDACTED] and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]@trethowans.com

[REDACTED]

In the light of what you said in your final paragraph of your email of 19 May 2020, my client is prepared to release to you the various further documents. Please find them attached.

Regards.

[REDACTED]

For and on behalf of Trethowans LLP

From: Woodward, Cllr S

Sent: 21 January 2019 09:33

Subject: Recreation & Heritage Community Fund

Dear Members

I am pleased to let you know that, at my Decision Day on 14th January, I decided to create a new grant scheme called the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

There will be over £500,000 in the new fund in 2019/20 which replaces four existing grant schemes. I am keen to continue supporting organisations which provide projects and activities that directly support the communities that need them most and to see them thrive. For the first-time young people's uniformed organisations such as Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts, as well as sports clubs, will be able to apply for funding.

An application form for the new fund will soon be available via this link:

www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-funds-list?filter=.Culture-Communities-and-Business-Services

The new fund will allow us to think more creatively about how best to distribute the money we have, ensuring we get the maximum benefit for residents through this new competitive process.

I hope the fund will attract exciting applications from organisations who we don't currently know about and who would benefit from extra support. However, we also want to safeguard the future of those organisations that most directly support the community and help them become more self-sustaining in the future.

More details are available in my recent [Decision Report](#).

Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division

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From: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>

Date: 26 June 2018 at 12:48:28 CEST

To: Perry, Cllr R <Roy.Perry@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: Recreation and Culture grants

Dear Roy

There is presently a myriad of grants, the great majority of which are revenue funding of organisations which have been made for many years. My intention is to rationalise the grants budget into a single capital pot and aim to do away with revenue funding ASAP. I believe this will have a number of advantages:

1. This will remove the dependency culture of some organisations who would rather rely on HCC than go and raise their own money for running costs
2. We will fund mainly capital projects of which every one will be a good news story for HCC and individual Members
3. If we need to make savings on grants it is much easier to reduce a capital pot which will simply increase the competition element rather having a death by dozens of cuts in revenue streams

I hope you are happy with this approach to move from opaque revenue funding to transparent capital funding for specific schemes.

I have asked that the Select Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman are briefed and the Committee advised in the autumn. This would then start from 2019/2020.

Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division

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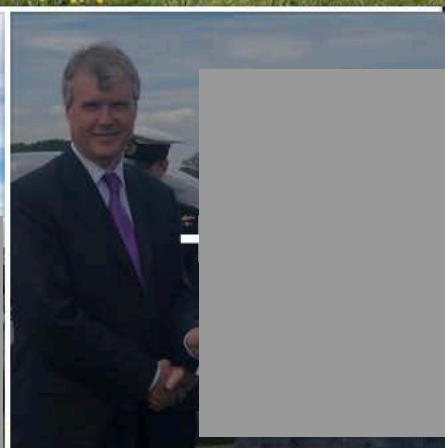
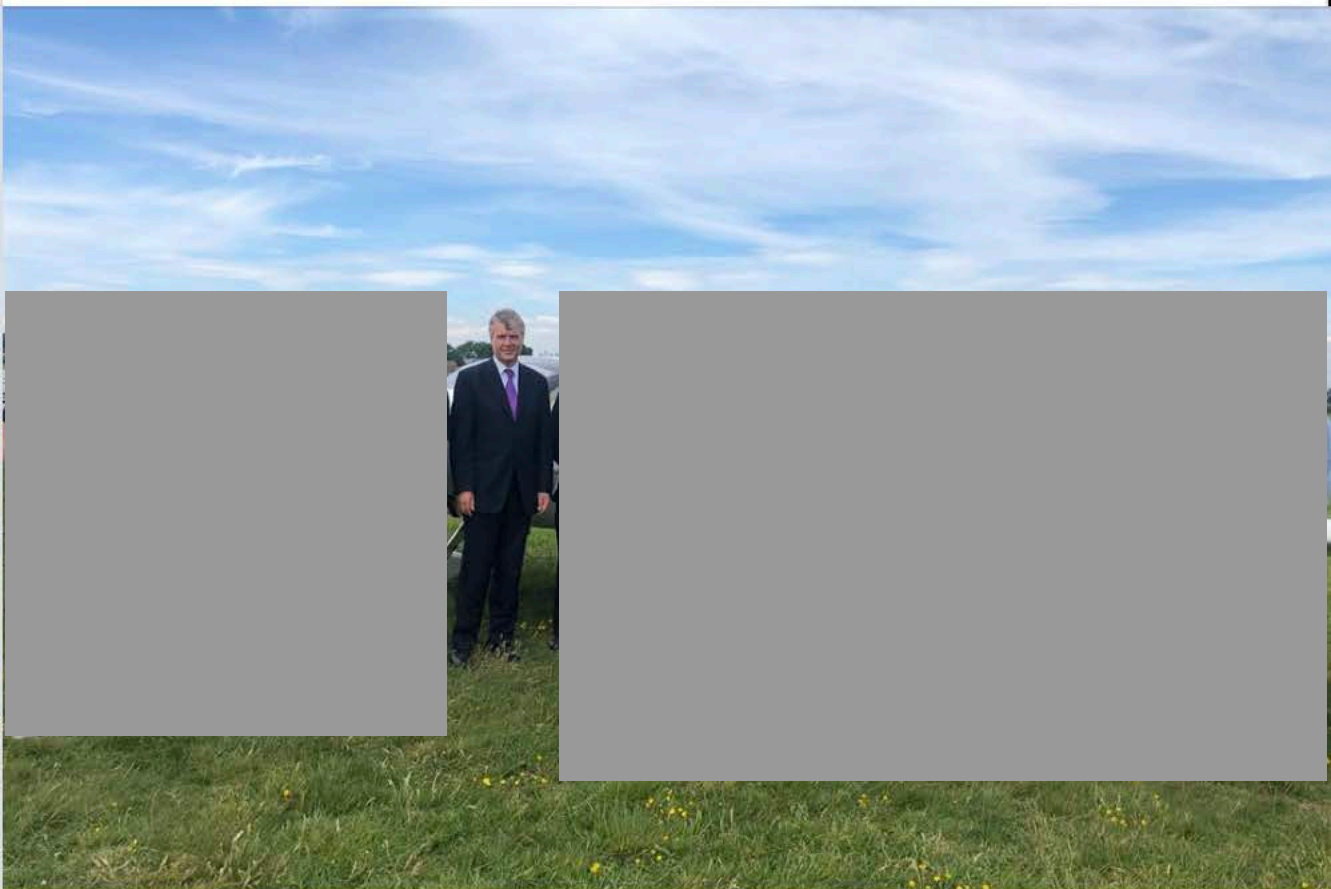
Councillor Seán Woodward

Published by Sean Woodward [?] · 23 May 2019 · 🌐



ROYAL NAVY GLIDING COURSE AT SOLENT AIRPORT@DAEDALUS

It was great to join Portsmouth Naval Gliding Centre Chief Instructor [redacted] on behalf of the Royal Naval Gliding and Soaring Association at Solent Airport@Daedalus today. Pleased to present the certificates and to enjoy a flight. It is good to see so many visitors to enjoy the facilities we have on offer. As always fantastic to be joined by a Boulton Paul Spitfire.



4,196

People reached

1,363

Engagements

Boost post



14

5 comments 4 shares

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Comment

Page 205

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02/04/2019, 13:44


Sean ,



The RN return to Daedalus Airfield to run a motor glider course may 20 to 24 based in the control tower and using three motor gliders. Can you put out a date in your diary to visit on VIP day Thursday 23 may. Thanks



ADDER PHOENIX

 has been very supportive as has pheonix avation

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A1 Organisation Name

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	<i>Organisation Name</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Project Costs</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Officer Amount Recommended</i>	<i>Officer Comments</i>	<i>Exec Member Comments</i>	<i>No of Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Match funding - funding body and amounts</i>
1									
2	Applications from previous summary								
3									
4	Enquiries								
5	The Rockets	Purchase of Lorry	£45,000	£15,000		Invite to apply	One of the applicants is known to me so I will not be making a decision on this application. I would however suggest that it is only supported subject to confirmation this is a CIC or a charity and there is some community access to the group outside the membership, e.g. taster sessions for local children and some free performances at local events. Also subject to matched funding by Fareham Borough Council.		Intend to apply to FBC for £15,000
6									
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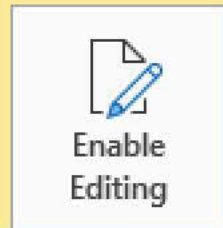
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Info

Grant Application Summary - RHCF 19-20 - 2019.02.01 (3)

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Size	25.1KB
Title	Grant Application Summar...
Tags	None
Categories	None

Related Dates

Last Modified	02/02/2019 14:48
Created	18/01/2019 15:23
Last Printed	

Related People

Author	
Last Modified By	ymcowo

Related Documents

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A1 Organisation Name

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Organisation Name	Project Title	Project Costs	Amount Requested	Officer Amount Recommended (Amount Awarded for previous DDs)	Officer Comments	Exec Member Comments	No of Beneficiaries	Match funding - funding body and amounts	



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The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC	The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team lorry	£45,000	£15,000	£15,000	<p>Vehicle in order to transport bikes and equipment to shows across the country, charging a nominal amount to perform in shows so children and young people have opportunities to take part in more high profile displays. Some elements of the application are outstanding. The application to FBC is in progress.</p> <p>Recommend an award of £15k to match FBC on conditions of grant in line with FBC (development of pricing policy, number of free displays locally and number of free places to local children for whom cost would be a barrier to participation) as well as receipt of outstanding supporting documentation (breakdown of costs and supporting estimates).</p> <p>SUGGEST EARLY DECISION BY END OF APRIL to be noted in May decision day report so the organisation can plan the upcoming show season accordingly as summer bookings require long lead in times.</p>	<p>AGREED however as one of the applicants is known to me I will be asking that another Executive Member makes the actual decision.</p>	100	<p>own funds committed: £10,000 awaiting outcome: £15,000 Fareham Borough Council Community Grant, (expected outcome 01/05/2019) expects to generate: £2,000 from Show income, £3,000 from Subscriptions.</p>	
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Info

RHCF Grants Summary - 2019.04.12

E-mail attachment: C:\Users\ymcowo\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\QAJCEBAG\RHCF Grants Summary - 2019.04.12.xlsx



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Categories	None

Related Dates

Last Modified	12/04/2019 23:06
Created	10/04/2019 19:22
Last Printed	

Related People

Author	<input type="radio"/> [Redacted]
Last Modified By	<input type="radio"/> ymcowo

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HCC Grants to Recreation / Cultural Groups



Perry, Cllr R

Sat 07/11/2020 10:43

To: Woodward, Cllr S



Sean

Thanks for your telephone call- I am happy that you send the following statement to Barbara Beardwell to help assist her enquiries

Page 215

I can confirm that as Leader of Hampshire County Council in 2018 I appointed Councillor Seán Woodward to the role of Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage on 18th May 2018.

We held our first Leader/Portfolio Holder meeting on 29th May 2018 when he described to me his wish to move from a predominately revenue grant system of ongoing support to the same organisations every year to a system of capital grants which would be more transparent and benefit far more organisations across the county.

He went on to work with the Director to develop the new system keeping me briefed of progress at our regular meetings and wrote to me in detail about his proposals on 26th June 2018.

I am sure the previous Director, Karen Murray would be able to provide further details and I believe consideration of the process was given by the Select Committee

Roy Perry

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From: Russell Collier <russellcollier2003@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:54
To: Beardwell, Barbara <barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 February 2019 09:59
To: info@therockets.co.uk
Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Dear Joanne,

The Recreation and Heritage Community Fund is one of the various grant schemes operated by Hampshire County Council and we use a corporate application form and process. The Guidance for Applicants link at the bottom of the webpage provides guidance on completing this form and the supporting documentation that is requested. There is also a handy 'application checklist' you can use to make sure everything is covered. It would be helpful if you could submit the supporting documentation to us directly where possible (electronic copies can be uploaded with your application) as this will speed the process up for us. We will liaise with Claire at Fareham Borough Council as well.

If you have any queries when completing the application, please feel free to get in touch and we will be happy to chat through them with you.

Yours,

Rosellen

Rosellen Lambert

Senior Project Officer

CCBS Grants

Culture, Communities and Business Services

Hampshire County Council

CCBS Grants
Hampshire County Council
Office 2
Second Floor
Castle Hill
Winchester
SO23 8UH

CCBS Grants Phone - 01962 845390

ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk

Information on CCBS Grant Schemes can be found at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-funds-list?filter=.Culture-Communities-and-Business-Services>

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: info@therockets.co.uk <info@therockets.co.uk>
Sent: 05 February 2019 23:26
To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Hello,

Thank you for the update regarding the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. The link now appears to be live however it is taking me to the County Council Grant and not Recreation Heritage grant so unsure if this is correct application?

I have this week met with Claire Benfield at Fareham Civic Offices regarding the match funding from Fareham Borough application and have submitted some of the requested documents. I understand both authorities work closely together and you will liaise regarding information required from The Rockets.

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding the link and once confirmed I will of course continue with the application.

Kind regards,

Joanne



From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 February 2019 13:09

To: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Hello Joanne,

Thank you for your email. We were hoping that the link to apply would be live by today however there is a small delay from our IT department. Below is a link to the webpage where you can apply. We hope that the application link will go live this week so please keep checking the page. We look forward to receiving your application.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/recreation-heritage-community-fund>

Kind Regards

From: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 28 January 2019 08:12

To: Lambert, Rosellen <Rosellen.Lambert@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Dear Rosellen

I am writing to introduce The Team Green Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team and would like to register our interest in the new Recreation & Heritage Community Fund. Having made contact with Councillor Seán Woodward to seek advice our intention is to apply to both Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council.

I am be delighted to share with you our journey so far. The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team is an enthusiastic group of 4 - 16-year-old children who wish to be given the opportunity to perform as part of a children's motorcycle display team displaying at events throughout the year, from charity events, school fairs and families days to local carnivals. Since the start-up in January 2018 its success and growth has been unimaginable. One year on having recently changed to a Community Interest Company (not-for-profit) we have established good foundations with an exciting plan for the coming year.

Joining and being part of Rockets is not just about riding ability. The emphasis behind Rockets is very much working and supporting the children to understand, learn and develop the importance of team work and their attitude. Discipline and general life skills fundamentally form part of our training. We focus on individuals both on and off their bikes from behaviour and respect to commitment and dedication. Teaching them to ride a motorcycle comes from a strong foundation of these essential skills. The children very quickly learn they are part of something to be proud, in turn children gain and build confidence, which leads to strong interpersonal skills that they will carry into later life.

We are confident the club will continue to thrive with clear plans and objectives but most importantly remain self-reliant by means of income from show bookings for events. However, to be able to achieve this we need to transport motorbikes and equipment to and from events. Our project focus for the immediate future is working on raising money to fund a new lorry. Without this we are logistically unable to attend venues and perform. The project is a huge task and not as simple as just purchasing a vehicle. The vehicle will need significant modification to meet not only our needs but also the requirements of the "Showman's Guild" which we are members of and operating under such practice offers extensive benefits to the club.


We estimate the total value of our project to be in the region of £45,000.00 and therefore ask for your consideration for a grant of 1/3 of the value. We will also apply and ask the same from Fareham Borough Council and we match with a remaining amount of £15,000.00 for which we are currently enthusiastically fundraising.

I hope you give careful consideration to our request and would invite you to view our show programme (attached) which will give you a good insight into what we believe is an unusual and exciting community interest. We would be pleased to enter into a community use agreement to ensure that we commit to offering free taster sessions to any interested children as well as offering some free performances each year to not-for-profit organisations and continuing to raise money for good causes.

I look forward to hearing back from you and perhaps meeting so that we can make an application to the new fund.

Kind regards

Joanne Bull

1. My name is Joanne Bull and I am a self-employed management consultant living in Fareham with my family.
2. PC Morris and I met Councillor Seán Woodward for the first time in late August 2018. The meeting was arranged because we had written to him as Leader of Fareham Borough Council to ask for assistance in finding a new training ground for The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team. I was aware that he had a very good reputation locally for helping local people and organisations. Councillor Woodward contacted me a few days later to say that he had found us a training ground at Knowle a little outside Fareham Council's area belonging to someone he knew.
3. My next contact with Councillor Woodward was in October 2018. After we had settled into our training ground, I suggested to him that he might visit us at a training session to give him the opportunity to see our team in action and see how grateful the children were for his help. He attended with his son and PC Morris followed on by inviting Councillor Woodward to our awards evening a little later in October 2018 to present the trophies.
4. From this point until the end of December 2018 I only met Councillor Woodward on a few occasions and our discussions had moved away from Rockets and we spoke more about a potential marketing job opportunity and my interest in becoming a Councillor. I started working for LBhealthcare Physiotherapy as a part-time Marketing Manager in January 2019 on a temporary basis until April 2019.
5. 
6. In January 2019 I decided I was keen to follow my political aspirations and during this time I gained a further insight and understanding of a councillor's role and responsibilities. Councillor Woodward kindly took me to a few events as his guest to help my understanding. I was aware of the County Councillors' Grant scheme and Rockets applied to Councillor Woodward's budget for £2,000 towards jumping ramps for the Rockets. We were successful although Cllr Woodward did say to me that as I was working for his company he would be passing the application to another Councillor for decision.
7. On the subject of the £2,000 grant, I see that PC Collier and PC Morris now claim that the grant was never to be used for the ramps. That is untrue although I am aware that Rockets did not pay for the ramps and only half of them were provided by the supplier. Perhaps the grant was retained by them under false pretences.
8. It was in January 2019 that I learned about the new Recreation & Heritage Community Grants. Councillor Woodward made me aware of a published

report going to his Decision Day in January including the ability for organisations to apply for capital grants. I know that he made a number of groups aware of this opportunity and he told me he really wanted charitable and other groups all over Hampshire to benefit from Hampshire County Council's support to make their projects a reality. I said to him that the Directors of Rockets (PCs Collier and Morris and I) had a dream to purchase and fit out a lorry to be able to transport everything to shows around the country. We had one that was in a poor condition. He told me it would not be a decision he would make as I was now working for his company, but we should absorb all the details and decide whether to apply.

9. I wrote to the County Council on 28th January 2019 to express an interest in the Recreation & Heritage Community Grant towards a lorry purchase and fit-out at the end of January and received an acknowledgment including the details and a link to the online application form. (I have attached this email which you already have – JB1)
10. When we went on to complete the new Recreation & Heritage Community Grant application, we encountered numerous difficulties. I made several telephone calls and exchanged several emails directly with the grants officer as online links did not appear to be working. I was then directed to the wrong grant (the Councillors' Budget). I was totally confused so made contact with Councillor Woodward to seek his help. He did intervene as he knew we were one of the first to apply under the new scheme and was concerned the infrastructure of the grant application appeared not to be set up correctly. This was confirmed back by email from the grants officer (also part of the email trail attached – JB1). Unfortunately, the issues did not stop there so I again contacted Councillor Woodward as after saving the grant application the link to the saved application did not work. He again intervened to help resolve the issues with the grants officer.
11. The claims that Councillor Woodward wrote the application are absolute rubbish and based only on assumption due to the volume of email exchanges but they all related to IT issues, not the content of the application.
12. In June 2018 about a month after the £15,000 grant to Rockets had been approved by Hampshire County Council (and also one for the same amount by Fareham Borough Council) I formed a new community interest company (Solent Stars) and contacted Councillor Woodward to ask if the grants could be transferred as the organisations had essentially the same aims. He was unsure and said probably not and it would likely need new applications. He said he would need to seek advice. After he did so he said I needed to write to the councils which I did.
13. Fareham Borough Council made the decision not to pay the £15,000 grant to Rockets and cancelled it. As joint funding by both councils was a condition of the grants Hampshire County Council cancelled its grant as well.
14. It was clear and apparent I could not possibly continue to work with my two fellow Rockets directors [REDACTED] so I resigned from being a Director of Rockets on 23rd July 2019 not 14th May 2019 as stated by Felicity Roe in her statement. I do still remain a one-third shareholder in the company.

15. With support from my parents, I had purchased most of the equipment needed for Solent Stars including a lorry but was keen to have modifications made so applied to both Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council for a £15,000 grant to fund this. I provided some clarification to the councils about the works to be completed to the lorry to meet the requirements of the Showmen's Guild but the new organisation flourished quicker than expected and with a clear picture of the financial future I knew I would no longer meet the funding criteria as the conversion of the lorry was underway so I withdrew the application from both councils before it could be decided.
16. All elements of these complaints, suggestions of theft, fraud and assault by me are more false statements and borne out of trying to discredit individuals and damage the reputation of Solent Stars, which by this time was a real competitor to Rockets.
17. I believe the complaints against him have emerged because Councillor Woodward witnessed me being assaulted by PC Collier in June 2019 which is still under investigation by the Professional Standards Department of Hampshire Constabulary. PC Morris provided a false alibi for PC Collier. PC Collier was very vocal at expressing his intentions to damage and "bring down" Councillor Woodward by whatever means possible. This complaint was made on the back of joining forces with a political antagonist and arrived within two weeks of the expulsion of that individual from the Conservative Party after it was proven he had met with PC Collier and the pair of them had decided on what was their rights and their facts, potentially prejudiced the police investigation. [REDACTED] PC Collier made no secret in the fact his aim was to pursue both me Councillor Woodward and by his attempts to join the Conservative Party was another area of attack but I'm sure disappointed when his application for membership was rejected. He worked with PC Collier to concoct the complaint adding his inside knowledge of how political parties work and I heard for myself his hatred of Cllr Woodward in every other sentence at the meeting at which he was expelled.
18. I offered to Cllr Woodward that it may be helpful to be interviewed by the investigator and would have welcomed an opportunity to have provided a full statement, together with evidence of emails, provide the text messages and photos in person rather than via Councillor Woodward which would demonstrate that everything within the complaints attributed to me is entirely false. I was not even contacted let alone interviewed.
19. The information provided by PC Collier and PC Morris is totally fabricated, so I can only assume that is why what they claim cannot be backed up with any evidence. These complaints and all their false content are clearly politically motivated and vexatious in hope that they will destroy Cllr Woodward as well as any political future that I may have.
20. Councillor Woodward told me that the investigator asked him many details about me which I reluctantly supplied as they were highly personal and would have rather had an opportunity to be interviewed directly to avoid communication that could be lost in translation. Surely there is more than one

side of the story especially when so much assumption is made of what I apparently said and did.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Bull".

Joanne Bull

24th November 2020

1. My name is Ray Hanslip and for the last three years I have been the Chairman of Fareham Conservative Association and an active Conservative Party member for many years prior to that.
2. I have been asked to comment on the allegations brought against Councillor Seán Woodward.
3. I cannot comment on the grant funding allegations of which I have no knowledge.
4. On 4th October 2019 the Association took action to expel [REDACTED]. The reasons for his expulsion were [REDACTED] but the most prevalent ground was approving the application for Conservative Party membership of PC Collier without approval of either the Chairman or the officers after Titchfield Branch had expressed its objection.
5. PC Collier attempted to join the Party in the summer of 2019. As is normal prior to being admitted a member of the Party local branches are consulted by the Association. When Titchfield Branch was consulted members objected to PC Collier being admitted to membership due to allegations of assault against one of our members [REDACTED] having been made against him as well as alleged subsequent threats to pursue her into the Fareham Conservative Association. The Association was also made aware of an ongoing police investigation through the Professional Standards Department of Hampshire Constabulary. The Association officers took the decision that whilst the allegations against PC Collier were at that time unproven to them, they would take the precautionary approach and reject the application for the safety of our membership until the outcome of the investigation.
6. [REDACTED] openly objected to the rejection of PC Collier's membership application. In a manner which his colleagues felt likely to prejudice an ongoing police investigation, it became apparently obvious from email exchanges on the matter that, against his fellow officers' wishes, [REDACTED] took it upon himself to visit PC Collier to discuss the alleged assault on [REDACTED] which had been allegedly witnessed by Councillor Woodward.
7. [REDACTED] reported back that after his unauthorised meeting with PC Collier that the allegations in his opinion were unfounded and it was all the fault of Cllr Woodward against whom he had openly held a dislike for some time within the Association. The rest of the officers decided to let the police investigation run its course and reminded [REDACTED] not to interfere with an ongoing police investigation as it was not the business of the Association to get involved and the member's application would be decided on the outcome of the police investigation. [REDACTED] then decided to access the Association's membership system without the Chairman's or officers' authorisation and

admit PC Collier as a member contrary to the decision of his colleagues who were trying to protect the wellbeing of a member from potential harm. This was on discovery reversed and was the main contributing fact leading to his expulsion from the Party on 4th October 2019. An expulsion which stands to this day.

8. At the expulsion meeting and beforehand [REDACTED] made it clear to members and was heard to say that he and others and would ensure that Cllr Woodward got his “comeuppance” and during the hearing made his criticism and dislike of Cllr Woodward clear. [REDACTED] openly blamed his demise on Cllr Woodward during the suspension stage, before, during and after the expulsion hearing so it comes as no surprise to see the complaints submitted by PCs Collier and Morris appear to be influenced by [REDACTED]’s interaction after their meeting. To demonstrate [REDACTED]’s interaction with PC Collier I attach just one example of an email between us – (attachment RH1)
9. I would also like to bring to the attention of the Panel that whilst I have not been presented with any evidence from any of the parties of the allegations I would like to point out my observations on the chronology of the sequence of events all within approximately 3 months of each other and the timings are very conveniently coincidental:
 - a) Alleged assault against [REDACTED]
 - b) Alleged Investigation through the Professional Standards Department of Hampshire Constabulary
 - c) Application for membership by PC Collier
 - d) Application rejected
 - e) Expulsion of [REDACTED]
 - f) Complaint filed against Cllr Woodward to Hampshire County Council and others
10. I have been asked to give my opinion on the complaint and whilst the majority of the facts are held at the Association office on record regarding [REDACTED]’s expulsion and PC Collier’s membership application. I would like my opinion to be noted as purely that, an opinion and would speculate with the balance of probability it would be logical to surmise that looking at the sequence of events above that two parties have simply fallen out with each other. From the email provided it is clear that [REDACTED] has interacted with PC Collier, otherwise how would he know of a counter claim without talking to the proposed claimant. One had his membership rejected, the other was expelled, at least one has on record held a dislike for Cllr Woodward so in the balance of probability it is more than likely that the pair have collaborated and as Cllr Woodward is a politician and if retaliation is in mind the easiest way is to launch a character assassination designed to irrevocably damage his reputation and political career.
11. In closing I can confirm that an identical complaint was submitted against Councillor Woodward to the Conservative Party nationally . The Party chose not to pursue as they said it was politically motivated.

R. Hanslip

Ray Hanslip, Chairman, Fareham Conservative Association. Dated 24th November 2020

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, 29 July 2019 at 19:33

To: Ray Hanslip [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: New Candidate Application

Sorry Ray, but that's confidential information at the moment. I'll let you know once I've been given permission to share it.

Regards

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Ray Hanslip [REDACTED]

Date: 29/07/2019 19:03 (GMT+00:00)

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: New Candidate Application

Dear [REDACTED]

Please can you tell me how you are aware of the accused new member forming a counter claim against the new candidate?

KR

Ray

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, 29 July 2019 at 15:41

To: Ray Hanslip [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: New Candidate Application

Dear Ray

Many thanks for the reply and it's quite understandable that the enquiry needs to be completed, but I think you need to be aware that there is counter claim against that newly approved councillor, you will understand that I cannot say anymore, at this moment, than that, due to confidentiality.

If the member's allegations are proved unfounded then we should interview that person and their witness, to decide if action needs to be taken against them, from what I know of the situation there is a real danger that FCA and the party, may be brought into disrepute, time will tell.

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Greenhough, Kevin

From: professional.standards@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
Sent: 16 June 2020 14:22
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: RE: Complaint Investigation - CONFIDENTIAL

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was professional.standards@hampshire.pnn.police.uk and the sender's email address was professional.standards@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Dear Mr Goacher,

In response to your email dated the 19th May 2020 please be advised of the following;

The E- Mail that Inspector Roberts sent to the named party on the 11th September 2019, as detailed by you, was factually correct in its content. Furthermore, and in relation to the information that was provided to you by Councillor Woodward on the 6th March 2020, I can state that no misconduct investigation was in the process of being conducted against either Mr. Morris, or Mr. Collier.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Paul
Appeals Co-Ordinator and Office Supervisor
Professional Standards Department

From: Simon Goacher [mailto:Simon.Goacher@Weightmans.com]
Sent: 02 June 2020 14:30
To: PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS Mailbox <professional.standards@hampshire.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk; Roberts, Justin <justin.roberts@hampshire.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Complaint Investigation - CONFIDENTIAL
Sensitivity: Confidential

Dear Sirs

Further to my exchange of emails with Inspector Roberts I would be grateful if you could confirm when you might be in a position to respond to my query.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Goacher
Partner
Weightmans LLP



Tel: 0345 073 9900 /ext 139582

DDI: 0151 243 9582

Simon.Goacher@Weightmans.com

<https://www.weightmans.com>

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We will accept service of proceedings electronically if proceedings are sent to

<mailto:serviceofproceedings@weightmans.com>

From: justin.roberts@hampshire.pnn.police.uk <justin.roberts@hampshire.pnn.police.uk>

Sent: 20 May 2020 00:48

To: professional.standards@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Cc: barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk; Simon Goacher <Simon.Goacher@Weightmans.com>

Subject: RE: Complaint Investigation - CONFIDENTIAL

Sensitivity: Confidential

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was justin.roberts@hampshire.pnn.police.uk and the sender's email address was justin.roberts@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Dear Professional Standards Department

This has been sent to me. Please could you pass this to the nominate officer who had been assigned the investigation into PC Russ Collier (and a former police officer Mr Jason Morris), please can they address the matter accordingly

Kind regards

Justin

Justin ROBERTS

Inspector 2841

R&P 'A' shift Inspector
Hampshire Constabulary
c/o Waterlooville Station
Swiss Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire

PO7 7FX

 justin.roberts@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

From: Simon Goacher [<mailto:Simon.Goacher@Weightmans.com>]
Sent: 19 May 2020 14:58
To: Roberts, Justin <justin.roberts@hampshire.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: 'Beardwell, Barbara' <barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: Complaint Investigation - CONFIDENTIAL
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Inspector Roberts

I have been instructed by the monitoring officer of Hampshire County Council to investigate complaints which have been made about one of its councillors, Cllr Sean Woodward.

The investigation is being carried out in accordance with the Council's procedures adopted pursuant to the Localism Act 2012. Any information supplied will be kept confidential. However, it is possible that a report could be made to the Council's standards committee and that such a report would be published.

The complaint partly relates to allegations and counter allegations made by Cllr Woodward against the complainants Russell Collier and Jason Morris. I understand that Mr Collier is a serving police officer and Mr Morris was also a police officer until recently. Part of the complaint relates to an allegation that Cllr Morris made a malicious allegation to the Council about Mr Morris and Mr Collier regarding their role as school governors suggesting that they were being investigated for alleged criminal offences and also by the police professional standards unit. I have seen an email which you sent to the Headteacher of Crofton Hammond School on 11 September 2019 which stated, "I am the second line supervisor for both Russell Collier and Jason Morris. I can confirm they are not under criminal or misconduct investigation."

I interviewed Cllr Woodward on 6 March 2020. In that interview he stated that professional misconduct investigations were still ongoing and he had been interviewed within the previous two weeks by the police. This is at odds with the evidence of Mr Morris and Mr Collier and seemingly the contents of your email.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could advise me what the current position is with regard to any criminal or misconduct investigation. Also it would be helpful if you could advise me of when any decisions were made in respect of complaints made by Cllr Woodward about Mr Collier and Mr Morris and when Cllr Woodward was informed of those decisions.

If you have any queries regarding the above or need anything further from me please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Goacher
Partner
Weightmans LLP



Tel: 0345 073 9900 /ext 139582

DDI: 0151 243 9582

Simon.Goacher@Weightmans.com

<https://www.weightmans.com>

128 specialism rankings and 276 individual rankings in Chambers and Legal 500



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We will accept service of proceedings electronically if proceedings are sent to

<mailto:serviceofproceedings@weightmans.com>

Please note that with effect from 1 June 2020 we will no longer accept service by DX

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Nothing in this email can be considered to create a binding contract

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