

Decision Notice

Audit & Member Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee

Councillors Greatorex (Chair); Lee-Ho, Norman, Spruce, White

Independent Person Ray Betteridge, Advisor Christie Tims, Investigator Lorraine Fowkes (DMO SSDC)

The Assessment Sub-Committee met on 1 July and reviewed the complaint brought by the complainant dated 3 February 2019 that Cllr David Leytham had not updated his register of interest form to show correct and accurate information regarding the business interests of his spouse, who was carrying out work for Lichfield City Council as Pretty Little Parlour.

The Committee reviewed the initial assessment undertaken on 7 March by Lorraine Fowkes, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Solicitor for South Staffordshire District Council in conjunction with the Independent Person that determined the complaint met all the relevant tests and should be investigated for consideration by an Assessment Sub Committee of the Audit and Member Standards Committee.

The Committee also considered an investigation report dated 26 March detailing all the evidence relating to the operation of Pretty Little Parlour and services provided by the same to Lichfield City Council as well as the Register of Interests Forms Cllr Leytham submitted during this period.

In this regard Councillor Leytham admitted he had failed to register the business in his interests as, save for the services provided to the City Council, he did not believe to be operating as such at that time.

The Committee agreed that a breach of the Code of Conduct for Lichfield District Council had occurred, in that Councillor Leytham had failed to register the business of his spouse and also failed to register the existence of a contractual relationship between the City Council and Pretty Little Parlour.

The Committee found that Councillor Leytham had not understood the letter and spirit of the Code of Conduct and resolved to censure Councillor Leytham and requested that he undertake Code of Conduct training. The full investigation report will be released, saving any personal information relating to other private individuals.

-Report attached-