

## **Annexe 5 – Statement provided by the Independent Person**

It appears to me that from the onset of this process [Councillor Barton] wanted a more ‘formal’ approach within the informal investigation period. Even my own contact with [Councillor Barton] presented more “formally” that I would have expected.

It is also necessary to take into consideration the likely views of the complainants. I am aware that this process has taken a significant period of time. The process seems to have diverted away from the original complaints that were relevant to breaching the Code and spiralled into other areas. This has been far from ideal! Therefore it seems likely to me that the complainants will wish to see their complaints finalised formally with this hearing.

As a decision has been made for a hearing, I trust that the focus will return to the detail of the actual breaches of the Code found during the formal investigation process.

I make the point that due to the extended process of these complaints, coupled with my limited intervention, that I struggle to remember all detail. Due to GDPR regulations I do not keep documents after I have read them and therefore much information will be new to me during the hearing.

It appears that both councillors were not accepting any wrong doing making the earlier option of an informal resolution impossible.

Vivienne Cameron  
Independent Person