

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Record

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

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#### 1. The decision:

That:

- 1.1. Councillor Woodward compromised his position on 14 January 2019 when approving the grants scheme by mentioning to officers a specific application he expected, from an organisation with which he had strong links.
- 1.2. Councillor Woodward put himself under an obligation to the Rockets to try to influence the decision making process, by failing to exercise independent judgement.
- 1.3. Following declaring his interest and putting into the public domain that he would not be making the decision, it is clear that Councillor Woodward re-involved himself in the grant payment process by making contact with officers in relation to the Solent Stars.
- 1.4. This constitutes a breach of paragraphs 3.4 and 3.7 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct.
- 1.5. The findings of the Panel should be published and reported to the next meeting of the County Council.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. In accordance with the County Council's Arrangements for dealing with the Assessment, Investigation and Determination of Complaints that a Member or Co-opted Member of the County Council has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members (the Arrangements), the Panel received and considered the report and representations of the independent investigator. The Panel also received and considered representations (both written and verbal) from Councillor Woodward.

2.2. The decision was reached unanimously, after seeking and taking into account the views of the Independent Person, Mr Moore, and having regard to the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. In accordance with the Arrangements, the Panel could reach one of two conclusions:

- That the Subject Member failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members; or
- That there was no failure by the Subject Member to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

All three members (Councillors James, Thacker and Vaughan) of the Hearing Panel declared a personal interest as elected Members of Hampshire County Council.

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:**

N/A

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
----- Councillor Rhydian Vaughan [Chairman of the Hearing Panel]	[9 December 2020]