

Birmingham City Council

City Council

16 April 2024



Subject: Standards Committee Recommendations following Code of Conduct Hearing

Report of: Marie Rosenthal Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

1.1 On 22nd March 2024, the Standards Committee held a hearing into a complaint that Councillor Des Hughes had breached the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-Opted Members. The complaint alleged that Councillor Hughes:

- Failed to correctly register his register of interests.
- Continued to access Council systems to extend employment contracts whilst no longer a Council employee.
- Continued to receive his salary after his resignation and failed to take steps to repay an overpayment in the sum of £6,189.96.
- Failed to declare his non-registerable interests and failed to recuse himself from meetings of the Education and Childrens Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.2 The Committee decided that Councillor Hughes had breached the Code of Conduct. A copy of the Decision Notice is attached at Appendix 1. The Committee decided that a report be submitted to Council recommending that Councillor Hughes apologise for his conduct.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Council is requested to:

- 2.1.1 Note the findings of the Standards Committee that the Code of Conduct has been breached and that Councillor Hughes apologise for his conduct.

- 2.1.2 Agree the Recommendation that Councillor Hughes be removed from his outside appointments representing the Council on the Board of the Birmingham Royal Ballet and as a Trustee of Barry Jackson Trust.
- 2.1.3 Agree that the Council takes promptly all reasonable steps to recover the outstanding overpayment of salary in the sum of £6,189.96.

Appendix 1: Standards Committee Decision Notice issued on 22 March 2024

Background papers: None

Other useful documents: The original report to Standards Committee on 22 March 2024 which can be found at:

ENDS