

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINT**  
**DECISION NOTICE**

**Subject Member: Cllr Amanda Taylor – Cambridgeshire County Council**

**Background**

1. A complaint was received on 2 August 2017 from Cllr Bates (“the Complainant”) alleging that Cllr Amanda Taylor (“the Subject Member”) had disclosed information contained in a report on the cycling Infrastructure in Cambridge which was due to be published. It was alleged that this was outside of normal Council processes and breached paragraph 3.1 of the Council’s Code of Conduct prohibiting disclosure of confidential information.

**Evidence Considered**

2. The following documents and information were considered for the purposes of this complaint:-
  - a) Complaint to the Monitoring Officer;
  - b) Email dated 26 June 2017 to members
  - c) Subject Member’s blog and Cambridge Evening News article;
  - d) The Report on the Cycling Infrastructure in Cambridge;
  - e) Member’s Code of Conduct.

**Jurisdiction**

3. For a complaint to be considered in connection with the Member’s Code of Conduct, the following test must be satisfied:
  - a) the complaint was made against a person who, at the time the alleged action took place, was a member of Cambridgeshire County Council; and
  - b) the Subject Member had signed up to the Members’ Code of Conduct in force at the time the alleged action took place; and
  - c) the Subject Member was conducting the business of their authority or acting, claiming to act or giving the impression of acting as a representative of the authority.
4. The Independent Person has concluded all three limbs of this test are satisfied in this matter.

**Initial Assessment Decision**

5. The Independent Person has considered whether the actions of the Subject Member described in paragraph 1 above constitute a breach of paragraph 3.1 of the Code of Conduct which states that “*you must not*

*disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature...*" the paragraph then goes on to list available exemptions to this.

6. The Independent Person noted that as at 26 June 2017 the Subject Member, with others, was provided with the information and asked not to share it due to it being in draft form. However the information disclosed was not by its nature confidential and in addition it was contained within a report that was to be published 5 days later.
7. Based on the evidence available, the Independent Person has concluded the following:
  - a) That there is no evidence that the Subject Member disclosed confidential information and there is accordingly no breach of paragraph 3.1 of the Code of Conduct.
  - b) That there is no evidence of a breach of any other part of the Code of Conduct.
8. The Independent Person therefore concludes that no further action should be taken on the complaint.

**Approved by:** Gill Holmes (Independent Person)  
Quentin Baker (Monitoring Officer)

**Dated:** 21 September 2017