

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

**Subject Member: Cllr Gordon Gillick, Cambridgeshire County Council**

**Background**

1. A complaint was received on 31 January 2017 from Cllr Moghadas of Cambridgeshire County Council, (“the Complainant”) alleging that Cllr Gillick (“the Subject Member”) had made comments during the Children and Young People Committee of 17 January 2017 the tone and content of which may have breached equalities legislation.
2. The Complainant alleges that during a discussion on a potential new secondary school the Subject Member “*made it clear that the current local school was populated with a large amount of Eastern Europeans, they clique together, local families are put off and forced to take their kids to schools further afield....Should British tax payers be paying for a new school for these children? Particularly when they may be sent home anyway following Brexit. He expressed hope that this was the outcome!*”

**Evidence Considered**

3. The following documents and information were considered for the purposes of this complaint:-
  - 3.1 Emails from Complainant dated 19 January 2017 and 31 January 2017;
  - 3.2 Email of support from Cllr Walsh;
  - 3.3 Minutes of the Children and Young People Committee of 17 January 2017;
  - 3.4 Members Code of Conduct.

**Jurisdiction**

4. For a complaint to be considered in connection with the Member’s Code of Conduct, the following test must be satisfied:
  - 4.1 the complaint was made against a person who, at the time the alleged action took place, was a member of Cambridgeshire County Council; and
  - 4.2 the Subject Member had signed up to the Members’ Code of Conduct in force at the time the alleged action took place; and
  - 4.3 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.
5. The Independent Person has concluded all three limbs of this test are satisfied in this matter.

## **Initial Assessment Decision**

6. The Independent Person has considered whether the actions of the Subject Member described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above constitute a breach of the following provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct:
  - 6.1 You must treat others with respect (para 2.1 Code of Conduct);
  - 6.2 You must not do anything which may cause the Authority to breach UK equalities legislation (para 2.2(a) Code of Conduct);
  - 6.3 You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute (para 2.2(e) Code of Conduct).
  
7. Based on the evidence available, the Independent Person has concluded the following:
  - 7.1 The Minutes of the relevant Committee meeting do not help greatly, confirming merely that Cllr Gillick attended and spoke on the matter; and
  - 7.2 If the content and tone of the comments made are as alleged, there is a potential breach of all 3 paragraphs of the Code mentioned ie para 2.1 (respect); para 2.2(a) (breach of equalities legislation); para 2.2(e) (bringing office or authority into disrepute);
  
8. The Independent Person would normally recommend an investigation, however as Cllr Gillick is not standing for re-election considers that local resolution is more appropriate. The Independent Person recommends guidance regarding the equalities legislation and its seriousness.

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

**Dated:** 28 April 2017