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**Report to:** Audit and Governance Committee      **Date of Meeting:** 16 April 2014

**Subject:** Hearings Sub-Committee – Outcome of Investigation      **Wards Affected:** Park and Sudell

**Report of:** The Acting Monitoring Officer

**Is this a Key Decision?** No      **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

**Exempt/Confidential**      No

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**Purpose/Summary**

To present, for the information of the Committee, the outcome of a recent investigation into a complaint made against a Maghull Town Councillor.

**Recommendation**

That the decisions and recommendations of the Hearings Sub-Committee be noted.

**How does the decision contribute to the Council’s Corporate Objectives?**

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

**Reasons for the Recommendation:**

A formal procedure for the Hearings Sub-Committee has now been adopted and this provides for the Monitoring Officer to report the Sub-Committee’s decisions and recommendations to the Audit and Governance Committee for its information.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

N/A

**(B) Capital Costs**

N/A

**Implications:**

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Financial</b>	
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:**

None.

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT (FD2927) notes that the purpose of the report is to update Members on the findings of an independent review into allegations made against a Member and that there are no financial implications.

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD2232/14) has been consulted and has no comments on the report.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 On 3 October 2013, a complaint was received from a member of the public, Mr. Brendan Grant, against a Member of Maghull Town Council, Councillor David Jones.
- 1.2 The complaint was considered by the Initial Assessment Sub-Committee on 1 November 2013 and that Sub-Committee determined that it should be referred for investigation and the evidence subsequently heard by the Hearings Sub-Committee.

### **2. Hearings Sub-Committee Meeting**

- 2.1 On 7 March 2014, the Hearings Sub-Committee, comprising Councillors McGinnity, Papworth and Weavers met to consider the evidence obtained by the Monitoring Officer and to hear personal representations made by Town Councillor Jones and Mr. Grant, together with submissions made by an independent person, as required by the procedure.
- 2.2 The formal decision notice in respect of this complaint was published on the Council's website on 20 March 2014 and a copy is attached as Annexe A.