DECISION BY THE BABERGH MID SUFFOLK JOINT STANDARDS HEARING PANEL ON 4TH JULY 2019

Hearing Panel:

Councillor Paul Ekpenyong
Councillor Bryn Hurren (Chair)
Councillor Alastair McCraw

Complainant:

Councillor Sandra Gage

Subject Member:

Councillor Sarah Adams

Officers:

J Snell - Deputy Monitoring Officer, Babergh/ Mid Suffolk District Council
J Robinson - Deputy Monitoring Officer, Babergh/ Mid Suffolk District Council

Witnesses

D Holt, Deputy Monitoring Officer, Suffolk County Council

On the 4th July 2019 the Joint Standards Hearing Panel for Babergh and Mid Suffolk considered the investigation into a complaint concerning the conduct of Councillor Sarah Adams, Suffolk

County Councillor and her behaviour towards a fellow councillor. The Hearing Panel accepted in full the report of the Independent Investigator and the views of the Independent Person and partially upheld the complaints made by Councillor Gage against Councillor Adams

Decision

In reaching their decision the Hearing Panel had found sufficient evidence that Councillor Sarah Adams was undertaking council functions at the time of the alleged conduct, and that by behaving as she did, had brought her office into disrepute by failing to abide by the Suffolk code of Conduct under the following paragraphs:-

1) **You must treat others with respect.**
2) **(2) You must not bully any person**
3) **You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or council into disrepute**

In reaching their determination the Hearing Panel, whilst recognising that there was a political dimension to the situation, felt that bullying in any climate should not be tolerated and that Councillor Adams had behaved in an inappropriate manner showing a lack of respect and leadership that was essential to her office.

Sanctions

a) **That Councillor Adams should make a full apology to Councillor Gage at the next full council meeting.**
b) **Censure/publicity**

J M Robinson

Deputy Monitoring Officer

Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council