

STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE (HEARING)

FRIDAY, 2 MARCH 2012

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Friday, 2 March 2012. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Dianne Scambler on 01257 515034 or email dianne.scambler@chorley.co.uk

4. REPORT INTO ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee (Hearing) today, 2 March 2012, considered and determined the report of an investigation under Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2000 into an allegation concerning Councillor Chris France of Chorley Council.

Councillor Chris France appeared in person and was represented by himself with support and assistance from Councillor Peter Wilson.

The Sub-Committee has decided that Councillor Chris France has breached paragraph 4(a) of the Code of Conduct by disclosing confidential information, and also paragraph 5, by bringing the authority into disrepute.

The Sub-Committee determined that Councillor Chris France be suspended from the office of Councillor for a period of 3 months, and that his member allowances would be withheld during the period of suspension.

The Sub-Committee consider these are most serious breaches of the Code of Conduct and the imposition of this suspension would most likely have been longer – up to six months. However we have also taken into account your limited experience at the time of the breaches and your subsequent apologies for your actions.

The sanction we have imposed is in our opinion both reasonable and proportionate.

This Sub-Committee is required and responsible for maintaining the highest levels of conduct amongst the Councillors at Chorley.

Such breaches which can bring the authority into disrepute do and can have serious implications on the good name and reputation of this Authority and other Councillors.

