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Joe Blott  
Strategic Director  
Transformation and Resources

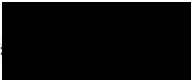
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to Confidential

date 20 January 2014



my ref JB/LW/JB007  
your ref

Dear Mr 

I refer to our two recent telephone conversations of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014 regarding the ongoing investigations into matters related to a recorded conversation and the concern that there may be additional matters referred to on that recording which require investigation.

You made it clear to me you were acting on behalf of all of your colleagues in relation to this matter.

You expressed a desire to share the recorded conversation but that would be on the understanding of me being in a position to share with you the report into the previous investigation into related matters.

I said I would seek legal advice into that possibility and I now write to confirm that it would not be possible for me to share that confidential report with you. As I explained to you in our telephone conversation on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014, this investigation, whilst following the process outlined in our Code of Conduct Protocol, was not formally part of the procedure as no complaint had been made. However the Leader had been so concerned about the original allegations, he asked that an independent investigation be undertaken.

A local resolution to the findings of that investigation was reached and as such, in order to retain the co-operation and anonymity of all parties, this must remain confidential. The outcome of the investigation will, in due course, be reported anonymously to the Council's Standards Committee.

I confirmed to you that the further investigation does form part of a formal complaint and therefore will be dealt with using the formal procedure. Should a breach of our Code of Conduct be found, then it is likely a referral to the Standards Board would be made.

In order I can undertake a thorough investigation, I would urge you and your colleagues, as per previous correspondence from myself and the Chief Executive, Graham Burgess, to make available to me all relevant material. I would re-iterate my request of 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013 that as part of the investigation, I require the following:-

- To hear the recording you state you have in your possession
- A copy and/or independent transcript of the recording
- A formal interview with you and your colleagues

I also reiterate my commitment to ensure that strong, corporate governance exists within the Council and I do wish to undertake a fair, open and transparent investigation into all and any matters of concern under the Council Code of Conduct and am already in the process of appointing an independent investigator.

I do hope you will consider this matter seriously and confirm whether you intend to co-operate in any further independent investigation in respect of this matter and provide all the evidence you have in your possession as part of that independent investigation.

Yours sincerely

*File copy*

Joe Blott  
Strategic Director, Transformation and Resources