

**LOCAL AUTHORITY (CODE OF CONDUCT) (LOCAL DETERMINATION)
REGULATIONS 2003 (AS AMENDED)****LOCAL STANDARDS HEARING – SUMMARY OF DECISION**

Notice is hereby given that on 19th December 2006 a Local Standards Panel considered allegations that Councillor K Heakin, as a Member and Director of Community Leisure Association of Whitworth (CLAW) being a charitable trust and as Leader of Whitworth Town Council failed to leave meetings of the Town Council on 2nd and 9th February 2006 during discussions in relation to a lease between CLAW and the Town Council and as a consequence had breached the Whitworth Town Council Code of Conduct (the Code).

The Panel determined that Councillor Heakin had breached Paragraph 10 of the Code in failing to withdraw from the meetings, having declared a prejudicial interest, and that he had improperly influenced the decision about the matter by virtue of his status as Council Leader, by remaining in the room at both meetings, and on 2nd February by attempting to vote and engaging in discussions with other Town Council Members.

The Panel also determined that Councillor Heakin had breached Paragraph 8 of the Code in failing to declare a personal interest in the matter under discussion by virtue of his involvement with CLAW.

The Panel decided that it was appropriate to mark the breaches of the Code by imposing one or more penalties. The Panel took into account all the circumstances of the case, Councillor Heakin's response to the breaches, his expected level of experience as Leader of the Town Council and as a Member of the Standards Committee. The Panel imposed the following penalties:-

That Councillor Heakin be required to attend training on the Code of Conduct;

That he be requested to submit a written letter of apology to the Chair of the Standards Committee.

The Panel also recommended that Whitworth Town Council be invited to undertake training on the Code of Conduct.

Julian Joinson
Democratic Services Manager
March 2007

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