



To all Members of the

AUDIT HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

Notice is given that a Meeting of the above Committee is to be held as follows:

Venue: Council Chamber, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BU

Date: Wednesday, 24th September, 2025

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Notice of Finding - 24 September 2025 (Does not form part of the agenda) 1 - 4

Governance Services Officer for this meeting

Jonathan Goodrum,
Senior Governance Officer
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City of Doncaster Council

www.doncaster.gov.uk

Members of the Audit Hearings Sub-Committee

Chair – Councillor Jason Charity

Councillors Jane Cox, Karl Hughes and Frank Jackson

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting) – Monica Clarke and Dave Harle



City of Doncaster Council

CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL

HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF FINDING IN RELATION TO AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT & THE CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hearings Sub-Committee of City of Doncaster Council (CDC), at a meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 considered allegations made by two members of the public against Councillor Mark Broadhurst of Hatfield Town Council (HTC) and City of Doncaster Council (CDC). The Sub-Committee determined that there had been a failure by Councillor Broadhurst to comply with the following paragraphs of the Members' Codes of Conduct adopted by City of Doncaster Council and by Hatfield Town Council:-

- *paragraph 1.2 of the Code by failing to treat members of the public, in particular muslim members of the public, with respect;*
- *paragraph 2.3 of the Code by failing to promote equalities and discriminating unlawfully against people of the muslim faith;*
- *paragraph 5.1. of the Code by bringing his role as a Councillor into disrepute; and*
- *paragraph 8.2 by failing to cooperate with this Code of Conduct investigation into the complaints made against him.*

The Sub-Committee considered the following allegations:-

- Two separate formal complaints had been made against Councillor Broadhurst relating to two separate posts made on his Facebook page. Both complaints were received by the Monitoring Officer on the 15th May 2025.
- Both complaints were made by members of the public. It was alleged that Councillor Broadhurst breached various sections of the HTC or CDC Code of Conducts.
- One post was from the "Mark Broadhurst" Facebook page dated the 19th March 2024 and contained a picture of Adolf Hitler with a caption that read "For f**k sake if I had chosen muslims I would have been a f**king legend".
- The second post was again from the "Mark Broadhurst" Facebook page dated the 30th March 2024. This was entitled

“How to make a Muslim” followed by 4 pictures of an Asian man with the following captions: “step 1 Remove brain”, “step 2 Insert sh*t”, “step 3 Apply bandage” and “step 4 Release to the public”.

Having regard to the report and findings of an Investigation conducted by Neil Concannon, Head of Litigation & Regulatory and Deputy Monitoring Officer, City of Doncaster Council (Investigating Officer), the Sub-Committee accepted the Investigating Officer’s findings that there had been a failure by Councillor Broadhurst to comply with paragraphs 1.2, 2.3, 5.1 and 8.2 of the Codes of Conduct adopted by both City of Doncaster Council and Hatfield Town Council in respect of the allegations detailed above for the reasons identified in the Investigating Officer’s report.

Following the Sub-Committee’s deliberations, the Chair read out the following statement on behalf of the Sub-Committee:

“This sub-committee unanimously condemns the actions of Councillor Broadhurst. The comments made by Councillor Broadhurst were clearly racist, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic and highly offensive. As elected Councillors our role is serve all of the residents in our wards regardless of their political beliefs, creed or ethnicity and this is a role which we are proud to uphold as elected members. The actions of Councillor Broadhurst, including his contempt for the investigation process, risk damaging the reputation of this Council and all elected members. In our view, Councillor Broadhurst should have apologised for any offence caused by his appalling social media posts and publicly committed to working on behalf of all residents. He chose not to do this. Furthermore, Councillor Broadhurst has failed to cooperate with this investigation or today’s hearing and that cannot go unsanctioned. It is our view that he is not fit to hold the role of Deputy Mayor of Hatfield Town Council nor hold a position on that Council’s Personnel Committee and we recommend to Hatfield Town Council that he be removed from both roles.”

Sanctions

The Sub-Committee resolved that in the circumstances of this case appropriate sanctions to be imposed upon Councillor Broadhurst are as follows:

1. That Councillor Broadhurst be censured and reprimanded for his actions;
2. That the Sub-Committee’s findings in respect of Councillor Broadhurst conduct be published on City of Doncaster Council’s website and to recommend to Hatfield Town Council that the Sub-Committee’s findings be published on its website;
3. That the Sub-Committee’s findings be reported to the next meeting of City of Doncaster Council for information;
4. To recommend to City of Doncaster Council that Councillor Broadhurst not be appointed to any Committee positions or membership of any Outside Body roles for the remainder of his current electoral term;
5. That the Sub-Committee’s findings be reported to Hatfield Town Council for consideration;

6. To recommend that Hatfield Town Council remove Councillor Broadhurst from his position as Deputy Mayor;
7. To recommend that Hatfield Town Council remove Councillor Broadhurst from its Personnel Committee;
8. To recommend to Hatfield Town Council that Councillor Broadhurst undertakes training at the expense of Hatfield Town Council on Equalities and that upon completion this be reported back to CDC's Monitoring Officer.

Appeals

There is no right of appeal for the Complainant or for the Members against a decision of the Sub-Committee.

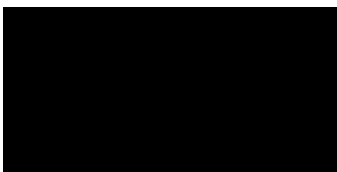
If the Complainant or Members feels that the Council has failed to deal with the complaint properly and that this failure has caused injustice, they can make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Hearing Sub-Committee

The Hearings Sub-Committee was chaired by Councillor Jason Charity and comprised Councillors Jane Cox, Karl Hughes and Frank Jackson and Co-opted Members David Harle and Monica Clarke.

The meeting was also attended by the Council's Independent Person, Philip Beavers, whose views were sought by the Sub-Committee prior to making a determination on this matter.

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Scott Fawcus attended to provide legal advice to the Sub-Committee. The meeting was clerked by Jonathan Goodrum, Senior Governance Officer, CDC.



Councillor J Charity, Chair of the Hearings Sub-Committee
Dated: 24th September 2025

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