

## SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO TORBAY COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

### 1. KEY DATA,

**To:** Amanda Barlow, Monitoring Officer, Torbay Council.  
**From:** Cllr. John Thomas. Blatchcombe Ward.  
**Purpose:** Supplementary submission to my original submission.  
**Subject:** Allegation of a breach of the Member Code of Conduct and/or Protocol.  
**Complaint re:** Cllr. Richard Haddock.  
**Complaint by:** Cllr John Thomas.

### 2. PREAMBLE.

2.1 I was interviewed by Ms. Amanda Barlow (Torbay Council Monitoring Officer) at 10:00 hrs on Monday 23 May 2016, subsequent to my original submission of allegation of a breach of the Member Code of Conduct and/or Protocol by Cllr Richard Haddock. Ms. Barlow has requested that I confirm, in writing, the comments that I made at the 23 May 2016 interview. In accordance with that request I herewith submit this supplementary document.

### 3. SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION.

3.1 During my nine (9) consecutive years as an Elected Member of Torbay Council, I have – *without exception, and at all times* – found that all Officers with whom I have had dealings have at all times been helpful, courteous, honest, considerate, informative, and highly professional. They have at all times all performed to the highest degree of integrity.

3.2 The challenging of a potential breach of the Member/Officer Code of Conduct and/or Protocol by a Member is an important part of due process. The challenging and adjudication of an alleged breach by the Peers of the Member(s) concerned is crucial to the maintenance of good order, respect for each other, and courtesy to each other in all of our dealings. I have therefore submitted my allegation in accordance with the Code and Protocol with a request that the Standards Committee investigate, consider, and determine whether such incidents, words and actions by Cllr Richard Haddock brought the council into disrepute and – if so – what action the Standards Committee may recommend

3.3 All members and Officers are duty bound to operate within the Member & Officer Code of Conduct and/or Protocol in all actions taken by them both jointly and severally. The Code of Conduct clearly delineates and sets out the boundaries within which all members and officers are required to operate and is there for a very good reason. *Any* breach of the Member/Officer Code of Conduct and/or Protocol puts the stability of the entire Code at risk. The consequences of such a breach could – *“in extremis”* – result in a breakdown of order within the affairs of the Council, potentially leading to chaos in the orderly operation of the Council as well as having the potential to bring the Council into disrepute. It is therefore essential that any alleged breach of the Code is challenged by the Peers of the alleged offender.

3.4 To paraphrase the Poet – Edmund Burke:-

*“It only takes one Man to stay silent in the face of wrong for wrong to prevail”.*

- 3.5 I believe that a number of breaches of the Member Code of Conduct and/or Protocol may have occurred on 3 February 2016 in a manner that I described in my original submission of allegation. *I make no change to that submission.* This document is intended to further clarify my reasons for the complaint that I originally made via due process.
- 3.6 I believe that the comments made by Cllr Richard Haddock and as described in my original submission to the Torbay Council Standards Committee, were:
- i). wholly unfounded
  - ii). not supported by the production of any evidence.
  - iii). wholly unreasonably & unfairly questioned the integrity of Professional Officers
  - iv). brought the Council into disrepute.
- 3.7 If Cllr Haddock had any evidence to support his very serious allegations, I submit that it would have been reasonable for Cllr Haddock to table the evidence at a private meeting with the Torbay Council Monitoring Officer and for him to follow the internal complaints procedure. However, and most seriously, Cllr Haddock made his allegations in the most public of public forums and without any evidence whatsoever being produced.
- 3.8 Cllr Haddock is an elected Councillor who is therefore in a position of Standing and Public trust. It is not therefore unreasonable to assume that an average member of the public could have seen Cllr Haddock's totally unfounded comments to have had substance. The fact that the comments were wholly unfounded and totally without evidence has led me to refer the matter to the Standards Committee.
- 3.9 Our Officers deserve better treatment than was the case on 3 February 2016.
- 3.10 The elected member colleagues of Cllr Haddock deserve better treatment than was the case on 3 February 2016
- 3.11 The electorate of Torbay deserve better treatment than was the case on 3 February 2016.

**4. .... & FINALLY.**

As confirmed in my original submission, I request the Standards Committee to investigate, consider and determine whether the words and actions of Cllr Haddock were a breach of the Member and Officer Code of Conduct and/or Protocol and if so, what action – if any – the Standards Committee may recommend.

**Cllr John Thomas.  
Complainant.  
25 May 2016.**