



### Policy Statement

The Town Council recognises that individual employees or groups of employees may, from time to time, feel aggrieved about an aspect of their employment and accepts that each employee has the right to raise this grievance and to expect that management will consider it and respond.

The purpose of the accompanying procedure is to provide a framework for dealing promptly and fairly with such grievances. The aim is to resolve grievances as near as possible to their point of origin.

Matters appropriately dealt with under the Council's Grievance Policy include all questions relating to the individual rights of employees in respect of their employment other than:

- Grievances that have already been considered in accordance with the procedure
- Grievances arising from a disciplinary or capability process in which the employee is already involved and where there is an appeals procedure in place
- Grievances in respect of issues over which the Council has no control e.g. external legislation
- Grievances that are already the subject of a collective grievance or dispute

The timescales may be altered by mutual agreement.

The nature and number of grievances raised in accordance with the accompanying procedure will be monitored annually by the Town Clerk.

This Policy will be the subject of annual review

Responsibility for conducting this review will rest with the Town Clerk.

### Procedural Guidelines

#### I. Informal Resolution

Where an employee is aggrieved about any matter relating to their employment, they should raise the matter informally with the Town Clerk as soon as possible and, other than in exceptional circumstances, within **twenty working days** of the incident or event. However, employees will be permitted to raise as part of a grievance a series of directly related incidents having a cumulative effect.

The Town Clerk should consider and seek to resolve the grievance within **ten working days**, and if necessary take the matter to the Complaints Committee for dealing with. Whether this proves possible or not the Town Clerk should in every case inform the employee of the decision and, if appropriate, any action taken.

Employees may wish to seek the advice of a trade union representative or colleague prior to raising a grievance at this informal level.

### **Formal Resolution**

If the employee is not satisfied with the result of the informal process, they can refer the matter back to the Town Clerk, in writing, stating the nature of the grievance. This should be done within **ten working days**.

The Town Clerk will arrange a meeting with the employee to discuss the grievance as soon as possible and normally within **ten working days**. If the Town Clerk hearing the grievance determines that further investigation is required, having listened to the employee's submission, the meeting will be adjourned for a period during which the Town Clerk will conduct any necessary research including taking the matter to the Complaints Committee for discussion. The investigation will be concluded as soon as reasonably practicable.

It is not expected that other parties would attend the reconvened hearing. However, if it is determined by the Town Clerk that their contributions would facilitate consideration of the grievance they will be asked to make themselves available, in order that they may respond to any matters raised by the aggrieved individual during the course of the hearing.

### **Appeal**

If the employee is still aggrieved, there is a right of appeal to a panel of councillors on the Appeals Committee. The notice of appeal should be submitted in writing within **ten working days** of receipt of the formal written response issued by the Town Clerk. The Appeal Committee shall consider the appeal within **twenty working days** of the receipt of the written appeal.

There is no further right of appeal.

### **Grievances relating to the Town Clerk**

If the grievance relates directly to the action or omission of the Town Clerk, the grievance should be submitted in writing directly to the Chair of the Complaints Committee who will investigate and respond to the grievance as outline above.

If the grievance is being raised by the Town Clerk on his/her own behalf, the grievance should be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Complaints Committee as above. If



# Kingsteignton Town Council

the grievance relates to the action or omission of the Chair of the Complaints Committee it should then be directed to the Deputy Mayor.

## **Representation**

An individual raising a formal grievance may be accompanied throughout the process by a trade union representative or colleague of their choice and reasonable preparation for the hearing will be allowed.