

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO
AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
8 MAY 2018**

Question 1

Mr R Stow, Rowlestone

Appendix 1 "Working Document" states that Councillors voted 5 to 4 to recommend that Councillors should not be named when they have been found by "monitoring officer resolution" to have breached the Code of Conduct. The likely public perception will be "Councillors vote to cover up misconduct".

How is this secrecy regarding conduct complaints which are upheld compatible with the Nolan principles of openness and accountability?

Answer

The constitution review working group considered the matter of the code of conduct in considerable detail and the recommendations for changes to the constitution as set out in appendix 1 were agreed by all members of the working group present at its final meeting. The working group has been assured that its proposals are compliant with the Nolan principles of openness and accountability.

Supplementary Question

In the interest of promoting accountability, who were the five Councillors who voted for secrecy, and who were the four Councillors who voted for openness?

Answer

We have no record of that. Thank you for your observations. We are always very grateful for considered advice and guidance of an independent person but ultimately it is for elected members to set and agree the judgements and balances, subject of course to complying with the relevant statutes and regulations.