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Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE Leader of the Council

29th September 2017

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Colleague

I have recently returned from holiday and received several complaints and concerns at a posting on Cllr Strangeway's website which, in my opinion, is unacceptable and is clearly a sexist comment.

Members who have voiced their concerns have asked me as Council Leader what action I can take. As you will be aware I have no powers to deal with this type of activity. I am therefore writing to you as Council Leader not in a political capacity to confirm my inability to take any action, as I have been informed several Members are very upset by the situation.

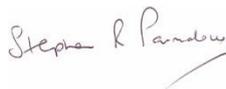
The issue relates to Cllr Strangeway's brief attendance at the Cabinet meeting on 19th September which in my absence was chaired by the Council's Deputy Leader, Cllr Jonathan Owen. Cllr Strangeway took a photograph of Cllr Owen and the Council Chief Executive, Caroline Lacey. Later he posted it on his website with the caption, purporting to words being said by Cllr Owen to the Chief Executive "Psst, don't look now but Strangeway's taking photos, and by the way do you know your flashing your legs".

This comment is not one expected by an Elected Councillor and would not be condoned in any workplace.

If any Member wishes to take this matter further then you need to take it up with the Council's Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal and Democratic Service, Mathew Buckley.

Cllr Strangeway did at a later point post the same photograph attributing the comment to both Cllr Owen and the Chief Executive. Members have raised with me before postings by Cllr Strangeway that have been offensive and with sexual innuendo, and indeed one of his latest posts relates specifically to a sexual act, however I believe this is a step too far.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE
Leader of the Council

