

FS- CASE-66476116; **No breach identified** – Recommendation of No Further Action.

### Executive Summary

This report investigates a complaint lodged on 24 November 2024 regarding the conduct of Councillor (Cllr) Jane Taylor during and prior to a Teignbridge District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 November 2024.

The complaint alleged that:

- Cllr Taylor attempted to deceive the Scrutiny Officer to gain a place on the committee by falsely claiming to be a substitute member.
- She took another councillor's nameplate and misrepresented her role.
- During the meeting, she spoke over the Chair, acting disrespectfully and in breach of the Code of Conduct and Nolan Principles.

Key Findings:

- The Scrutiny Officer, while recalling the incident clearly, did not feel manipulated or misled and did not perceive Cllr Taylor's actions as intentionally deceptive.
- Cllr Taylor denied any intent to deceive, citing confusion during a politically unstable period and prior communication from her group leader.
- The video evidence confirmed a disagreement between Cllr Taylor and the Chair during the meeting, but it did not show conduct that would bring the Council into disrepute.
- The Chair did not use formal mechanisms available to manage the meeting, and the committee's business was not significantly disrupted.

Conclusion:

The investigation found no evidence of dishonesty or misconduct that would constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct/staff Protocols or the Nolan Principles. The complaint is not upheld, and no sanctions are recommended.