

28 October 2025

## PRESS RELEASE

### Councillor Hynds suspended for one month

**Councillor Gary Hynds (Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council) will be suspended for one month following an Adjudication Hearing held today (28 October).**

The sanction related to an incident in the council chamber on 25 June 2024 in which an altercation took place between the councillor and a senior member of council staff.

Following the altercation an allegation was made to the Commissioner for Standards that the councillor had failed to comply with the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

In his investigation report the Deputy Commissioner stated that the councillor may have failed to comply with the Code's rules which deal with respect and consideration for others. He also presented evidence which suggested that the councillor may have conducted himself in a manner which could have brought his position as a councillor into disrepute.

In advance of a number of witnesses giving evidence to the Hearing to determine the facts of the case, the councillor agreed that his behaviour was intimidatory and that he had breached the respect provision of the Code. However, he denied that his actions amounted to bullying or harassment.

Although he believed he was motivated by the public interest, he agreed to issue an apology to the senior council officer for his behaviour.

Thanking both parties for their willingness to cooperate to find an agreed position on the facts, Adjudication Commissioner Ian Gordon stated that he was able to move to a decision on sanction.

After taking account of the mitigating and aggravating factors, he believed the most appropriate sanction was to suspend Councillor Hynds from his position as councillor for one month, starting from the date of his full written decision.

#### Notes:

The Commissioner's written decision will be made available shortly on the Commissioner's website at:

<https://nipso.org.uk/nlgcs/hearings-and-adjudication-decisions/>

#### ENDS

For further information please contact [communications@nipso.org.uk](mailto:communications@nipso.org.uk)