



Delivering local investigations

Handout 2

As the investigating officer, you are now at the point where you are in a position to interview Councillor Keegan.

The next steps are for you to plan the arrangements and the topic areas and key questions for the interview.

The following information is relevant:

- Councillor Keegan is known to have a 'short fuse' and it has been rumoured that he is prone to losing his temper on occasions with officers.
- Councillor Keegan has requested that you interview him at his home address and has said that his friend, Councillor Toshack, will also be present.

You have already conducted 10 interviews in respect of the allegations. The following witness information is relevant:

- **Allegation of accusing members of X party of taking “backhanders” and having their “noses in the troughs”.** On this issue, 30% of those asked heard “members of X party take backhanders”, 30% heard “it has been said that members of X party take backhanders” and 40% could not remember.
- **Allegation of the chief executive doing whatever the leader wants regardless of the whether it is the right thing or not for the council.** 60% of those providing witness information said they heard this and in their view it was true and 40% heard nothing like this being said.

Exercise

- 1) Set out some key considerations for planning the interview in terms of logistics such as venue, personnel etc. Come up with a rough plan of how you will tackle the interview in terms of topic areas and questions.
- 2) Specifically deal with the manner of your communication with Councillor Keegan from the moment you meet him to the moment you switch on your recording device.
- 3) Please also briefly address how you would deal with the interjections on the next page made by Councillor Keegan before, during and after the interview:

Before the interview:

- Councillor Keegan sends an email to you a week before the interview stating that he would like a list of questions that you will be asking three working days prior to the interview.
- At the start of the interview, Councillor Keegan pulls out his own recording device and says he also wishes to record the interview otherwise he will not proceed.
- Councillor Keegan then starts reading a newspaper during the opening introductory preamble.
- Councillor Keegan says that before he answers any questions he wants to see all evidence obtained from other parties.

At different stages of the interview Councillor Keegan states:

- “I don’t recall that”
- “No comment”
- “I need a cigarette before I answer that question”
- “Councillor Toshack will answer that question for me”
- Councillor Keegan spends five minutes making counter allegations against Councillor Capello.
- Councillor Keegan indicates that he will need further time to set out his allegations against Councillor Capello which go to his reliability as a witness and complainant against Councillor Keegan.

After the interview:

- Councillor Keegan returns a heavily amended copy of the transcript watering down some of his statements and deleting others.