

## Questions under Procedure Rule 10

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The following questions were submitted by Councillor Nick Colbert:

Given the recent revelations regarding corruption in SSDC and the accusations of a cover-up please answer the following questions:

- 1) The Auditors uncovered a “mysterious” payment of £109,000 to an unnamed officer for reasons that seem to have been kept secret, who was that officer, why was so much public money given to them and was there a confidentiality clause imposed on that officer?
- 2) Following the uncovering of corruption in SSDC an officer in Lufton, Chris Cooper, left the employ of the Council, was a confidentiality clause imposed on this officer and if so why?
- 3) The Auditors went on to state: “the council failed to produce a complete and accurate set of financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021. There was insufficient urgency given to responding to audit queries with other activities being prioritised. This was compounded by a lack of finance team capacity and poor quality working papers to support the figures in the financial statements in a number of areas. Management had not implemented several recommendation made as a result of the 19/20 audit which were aimed at addressing weaknesses in processes....”

Given that the Portfolio Holder for that brief was Councillor Peter Seib and the audit costs alone to the South Somerset ratepayer has already increased by £100,000 and rising, why has Councillor Seib been left in position as Portfolio Holder given the damning report from the Auditors?