



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: 13 April 2011

CONSERVATIVES FILE COMPLAINT OVER LABOUR LEADER'S LEAK

Swindon Conservatives have filed a formal complaint against the Labour Group Leader, Cllr Derique Montaut, for releasing confidential information to the media without permission.

Cllr Montaut leaked correspondence between English Heritage and the Council regarding the Mechanics' Institute, prior to Monday's Scrutiny Committee meeting on the subject. The information had been passed to him in advance at the request of the Chair of Scrutiny, Cllr Kevin Small, with strict instructions that it was not for publication.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Deputy Leader of the Council, said: "It is a disgrace. Councillors are trusted to hold confidential and sensitive information all the time. For a senior councillor with around 30 years' experience to breach this confidentiality requires the most severe punishment."

He added, "Either Councillor Montaut does not know what he is doing, in which case he is not fit to be a councillor, or he acted in full knowledge of his actions, in which case he has flagrantly abused his office."

Councillor Perkins has filed a complaint against Councillor Montaut with the Borough's Standards Committee for violating two clauses of the Members' Code of Conduct: Clause 4, disclosing confidential information; and Clause 5, bringing the office of councillor into disrepute.

Councillor Montaut is a candidate for the Labour Party in the Central Ward for May 5th's local elections, and Cllr Perkins is urging all residents to think very carefully about whether he is a fit person to be elected.

ENDS

Notes for editors:

For further information please contact Cllr Garry Perkins on 01793 432832.

The Members' Code of Conduct is on pages 244 to 253 of the Council's Constitution, which is available through the website www.swindon.gov.uk.