

Appendix 2

<u>Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct</u>			
Report by:	Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas		
Political Group:	Democratic Alliance		
No. of members:	8	No. trained on Code:	100%
For the period:	July 2024 – June 2025		
<u>Number, Source and Level of Complaints</u>			
	Informal	Local Resolution	PSOW
Public	0	0	0
Officers	0	0	0
Councillors	1	0	0
<u>Steps taken to Promote Compliance</u> <u>(To Be Completed by Group Leader)</u>			
Include matters such as:			
• demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards; • encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards; • ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee;			
I continue to espouse the Nolan Principles of public life and adhere to the code of conduct, and expect the same of members of my group. I regularly support them in informal queries they may have regards the workings of council or to resolve any issues. I took the opportunity to reshuffle my members around different committees in order that they can develop a broader understanding of council services. Where training for specific committees is required following the AGM in May, members are aware and will attend sessions to enable them to carry out their duties – some sessions are planned in the coming weeks, Members of my group also attended a session held earlier in the year – arranged by officers with an external provider - on improving scrutiny and accountability.			
• promoting civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal Council meetings;			

- promoting informal resolution procedures in the Council, and working with the Standards Committee and monitoring officers to achieve local resolution;
- promoting a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- attend a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;

No members of my group have been the subject of any complaints that are formal or requiring local resolution, since the beginning of this council term. An informal conversation took place between myself and another GL regarding perceived 'tone' between two members, which wasn't taken further.

All are hard-working ward members and invariably contribute to their allocated committees, treating members and officers with respect and civility. I am proud of their attitude to behaviour in public life.

I remain ready and willing to work with the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee should any issues arise.

- work to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards;
- work together with other group leaders, within reason, to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council.

I regularly attend Group Leaders' meetings and enjoy a constructive relationship with both fellow Leaders.

I have – and will continue to – raise issues informally with the Monitoring Officer and at Group Leader meetings when I believe standards of conduct or behaviour have fallen short of what residents would expect, primarily in meetings where a discussion has become 'heated'. I am equally content for fellow GLs to raise issues informally with me, should they concern my members.

I am looking forward to the new Chief Executive joining us in due course at regular Group Leader meetings.