

## Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct

Report by:	Cllr John Spanswick		
Political Group:	Labour Group		
No. of members:	26	No. trained on Code:	100%
For the period:	May 2025 – May 2026		
<b><u>Number, Source and Level of Complaints</u></b>			
	<b>Informal</b>	<b>Local Resolution</b>	<b>PSOW</b>
Public			
Officers			
Councillors			
<b><u>Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)</u></b>			
Include matters such as:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards;</b></li> <li>- <b>encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards;</b></li> <li>- <b>ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee;</b></li> </ul>			
<p>All members of my group have attended the Code of Conduct training and as far as possible all have completed the online mandatory training modules. However there has been some concerns around the online training modules not always being easy to access and not suitable for everyone.</p> <p>I continue to encourage members to take up training in relation to committees they may not currently sit on but may be required to in the future. There is ongoing work with group members to discuss their roles and help identify future training needs to help with their personal development plan.</p> <p>Where appropriate Group members are encouraged to attend external training and workshops that may be suitable such as those provided by the WLGA and APSE.</p>			

- **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;**

At the start of group meetings we have introduced a standing item on the subject of 'Member Conduct and Confidentiality'. There is a Group Whip system whereby any issues can be raised confidentially with support and guidance offered as appropriate. This is given priority within my Group as we need to ensure we are promoting high standards of conduct and integrity as that is what is expected by the public as their democratically elected representatives.

There have been occasions where I feel the conduct of some opposition members has fallen below an acceptable standard when in Council meetings, whereby the Mayor (as Chair of the meeting) is not always respected. There have also recently been some unfortunate comments on social media against my cabinet members which were totally untrue and took place during the recent election period with an attempt to try influence how people would cast their vote. I duly discussed this with the Group Leader (Cllr.A.Williams) and the Monitoring Officer and it was made clear that this type of behaviour is not acceptable.

- **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 have an open-door policy for all members and in particular Group Leaders and continue to arrange monthly Group Leaders meetings. There have been occasions over the past year when we have failed to meet on a regular basis and communication has not been as good as it should be. Therefore, I will look to agree a schedule of dates for Group Leaders meeting over the next 12 months so that we have them in our calendars so that we can plan accordingly. Should there be any future recommendation from the Standards Committee then I will endeavour to ensure that they are complied with in full.

## **Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct**

Report by:	Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas		
Political Group:	Democratic Alliance		
No. of members:	8	No. trained on Code:	100%
For the period:	July 2025 – June 2026		
<b><u>Number, Source and Level of Complaints</u></b>			
	<b>Informal</b>	<b>Local Resolution</b>	<b>PSOW</b>
Public	0	0	0
Officers	0	0	0
Councillors	0	0	0
<b><u>Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)</u></b>			
Include matters such as:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards;</li> <li>- encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards;</li> <li>- ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee;</li> </ul>			
<p>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.</p> <p>Members of my group have largely remained on the same committees as the previous year (changes made in 2024/25) so all relevant training has been complete. Members are expected to prioritise any training that emerges, either as a new opportunity or as a refresher.</p>			

- 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.

I am suitably content that the conduct of my members – with colleagues, officers and in public - remains in conjunction with the Code.

I remain ready and willing to work with the Monitoring Officer, fellow GLs 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 I am equally content for fellow GLs to raise issues informally with me, should they concern my members.