

Civility and Respect Pledge for Smaller Councils.

Extract from Council Minutes 2 November 2022

This initiative, promoted by local and national county associations and the Society of Local Council Clerks was noted to be in response to a national trend of worsening behaviour within councils and encouraged councils to sign up to the pledge, thereby demonstrating commitment to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.

It Was Resolved to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge by affirming the following statements:

- Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.
- Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors
- Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.
- Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.
- Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme
- Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.