
Agenda Item: Civility & Respect – Councillor Statement of Assurance

Meeting Date: Monday, 13 April 2026

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

The purpose of this report is to inform Members about the Civility and Respect Councillors' Statement of Assurance. It also seeks a decision from the Council on whether to adopt the Statement and require all Councillors to sign the pledge, to make signing the pledge a matter of individual choice, or to take no further action.

Background

Members will recall that, at the meeting held on 16 February, the Council received information regarding the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Civility and Respect project (minute no. 107 refers).

The Council has previously demonstrated its support for this initiative by adopting the NALC Civility and Respect Bullying and Harassment Statement in May 2022 and by signing the Civility and Respect Pledge in October 2022. Further information about the pledge is available here [Civility and Respect Pledge](#)

Current Situation

As advised at the last meeting 'The NALC Improvement and Development Board has introduced the Councillor's Statement of Assurance. This initiative strengthens their commitment to creating positive, supportive, and respectful parish and town council environments.

While parish and town councils can demonstrate their organisational commitment by signing the Civility and Respect Pledge, councillors themselves must also personally commit to upholding these values in their daily work and interactions.

Councillors who lead with civility and respect set the tone for their council and help ensure that council meetings and decision-making are effective, inclusive, and fair.

The statement is not a legal document or contractual obligation. It is a public affirmation of personal values and conduct.

Together, the Councillor's Statement of Assurance and the Civility and Respect Pledge give parish and town councils and councillors the tools to create a positive and professional culture.'

The Statement of Assurance is attached as **Appendix A**.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – no direct impact
- b) Biodiversity – no direct impact
- c) Crime & Disorder – no direct impact
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – no direct impact

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Agreeing that Councillors should sign the NALC Civility and Respect Councillor Statement of Assurance may be seen to strengthen standards of behaviour and promote a respectful working environment. However, it may also be viewed as unnecessary, particularly where existing codes of conduct are considered sufficient, which could lead to resistance or reputational risk if individuals choose not to sign. There is also a risk that expectations of behaviour and enforcement increase, and if not consistently applied, this could result in criticism.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

By agreeing that Councillors should sign up to the NALC Civility and Respect Councillor Statement of Assurance, positive social value may be achieved by promoting a culture of respect, inclusion, and professionalism within the Council. This can foster better relationships between Councillors, staff, and the community. It also signals a clear commitment to tackling bullying and harassment, which can help create a safer and more welcoming environment for diverse voices to participate in local democracy.

On the other hand, there may be some negative social implications if the requirement is perceived as symbolic rather than meaningful, or if it is not consistently upheld in practice. This could lead to cynicism among the public, undermining trust rather than strengthening it.

Financial implications

- There are no cost implications pertaining to this report.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and,

1. Consider on how to progress on this issue as outlined at the beginning of the report.