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Full Council Meeting
19th March 2024
FC133: Civility & Respect Pledge

1. Definition of Civility & Respect

Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech and in the written word.

Examples of ways in which you can show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.

2. Approach

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and One Voice Wales (OVW) believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

By our council signing up to the civility and respect pledge we are demonstrating that our council is committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.

Signing up is a simple process, which requires councils to register and agree to 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 committed to training councillors and staff.
- Our council has signed up to the 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 if and when it happens.
- Our council will continue to learn from best practices 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.