

| <b>Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct</b>   |                                |                           |   |   |      |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|------|
| Report by:   | Councillor Irving              |                           |   |   |      |
| Political Group:   | Conservatives                  |                           |   |   |      |
| No. of members:  | 7                              | No. trained on Code: 100% |   |   |      |
| For the period:  | 31st March 2023 – 1 April 2024 |                           |   |   |      |
| <b>Number, Source and Level of Complaints</b>  |                                |                           |   |   |      |
|  | Informal                       | Local Resolution (Stage)  |   |   | PSOW |
|  |                                | 1                         | 2 | 3 |      |
| Public (1 in total)  | 0                              |                           |   |   |      |
| Officers   | 0                              |                           |   |   |      |
| Councillors  | 0                              |                           |   |   |      |
| <b>Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)</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> |                                |                           |   |   |      |

My report covers the period that I have been in post, October 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024.. Member training is up to date and I have taken every opportunity at Group meetings to remind members that they should always show civility and respect to other members, officers and members of the public.

- 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;

This has been well adhered to except that one member has attracted comment for some of his remarks and I have special efforts to guide him as to what is or is not appropriate. For one set of remarks, at my instigation, he offered the officer concerned a full and unreserved public apology. I continue to work with him and offer guidance and I do understand that some of his remarks are made out of frustration with lack of progress in matters of concern to him. I am happy to work with other group leaders and the Standards Committee to support high standards of conduct within the Council. I have warned members about quoting unverified facts and statistics in general debate .

- 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 met with the monitoring officer on a number of occasions and believe we have a good open and honest relationship and hope we can continue this for the good of all in the future.

I note the requirement to encourage new Committee Members to attend relevant training before taking up duties with a new Committee.

I am happy to attend and work with the Standards Committee going forward with the overall objective of maintaining and improving standards of conduct by members and will always attempt to set and lead by example.