Meeting Type: Full Council	
Date of Meeting: 10th November 2026	

OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Report Author: Cllr M Palmer	**Purpose:** Decision / Discussion / Update
Title: Civility & Respect Pledge	

Subject: To request Council to adopt the Civility & Respect Pledge

Purpose

To seek approval from Oakham Town Council to formally adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge and to encourage all councillors to commit to and uphold its principles.

The proposal aims to strengthen positive working relationships between councillors, officers and members of the public, while reinforcing the Council's commitment to high standards of governance, accountability and professional conduct.

It is recommended that Oakham Town Council:

- Adopts the Civility and Respect Pledge promoted by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).
- Affirms its commitment to promoting a culture of dignity, professionalism, inclusion and mutual respect within all Council meetings, activities and interactions.
- Encourages all elected members to sign and support the principles contained within the pledge.
- Incorporates the principles of the pledge into councillor induction, training and development activities.
- Reviews its commitment to the pledge annually as part of the Council's governance arrangements.
-

Benefits

Respectful engagement supports effective decision-making by encouraging discussion to focus on issues and evidence rather than individuals. This assists the Council in reaching well-informed decisions in the best interests of residents.

Residents rightly expect elected representatives to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully. Adoption of the pledge would provide visible reassurance that Oakham Town Council is committed to maintaining high standards of conduct.

Council officers carry out their duties within a complex legal and procedural framework. Positive professional relationships between councillors and officers enable officers to provide impartial advice and support effectively.

The pledge promotes healthy working relationships and clear expectations regarding acceptable behaviour, helping to reduce conflict and improve the effectiveness of Council business.

By adopting the pledge, Oakham Town Council would demonstrate leadership and alignment with recognised best practice across the local government sector.

Legal and Governance Implications

The Civility and Respect Pledge is voluntary.

Adoption does not create additional statutory obligations, nor does it replace existing legal requirements.

The proposal complements:

- Localism Act 2011;
- Council Codes of Conduct;
- Equality Act 2010;
- Employment legislation; and
- Accepted principles of good governance.

Proposal /Motion:

It is resolved that:

1. Oakham Town Council adopts the Civility and Respect Pledge promoted by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.
2. The Council commits to promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct, professionalism and mutual respect in all aspects of Council business.
3. The Council encourages all elected members to support and adhere to the principles of the pledge.
4. The principles of the pledge be incorporated into councillor induction and ongoing member development arrangements.
5. The Council's commitment to the pledge be reviewed annually.
6. That Oakham Town Council approves the Implementation Plan attached at Appendix A and delegates authority to the Town Clerk to undertake the necessary actions to support and maintain compliance with the Civility and Respect Pledge.

For completion by the office

In Budget ☐	*Spend Authorised* ☐	*Budget Header:*			*Amount:*
Estimates ☐	*Quotes* ☐	*Emergency Spend* ☐	*Sole supplier* ☐	*Specialist* ☐	
P.O . ☐	*Invoice Checked* ☐	*Reason for spend:*			
Legal Power: Local Government Act 1972 *amend as necessary*		*Contract Finders* ☐	Supplier:		