

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Council – 22 June 2017

COUNCILLOR PLEDGE ON STANDARDS

Purpose:	To re-adopt the Councillor Pledge on Standards.
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s)	It is recommended that: 1) The Councillor Pledge on Standards be re-adopted; 2) It be compulsory that all Councillors sign the “Councillor Pledge on Standards”.
Report Author:	Huw Evans
Finance Officer:	Carl Billingsley
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 12 April 2013 recommended to Council that the Pledge on Standards be adopted and that it be compulsory for all Councillors to sign up to the pledge.
- 1.2 The Annual Meeting of Council at its meeting on 9 May 2013 adopted the “Councillor Pledge on Standards” and that it be compulsory for Councillors to sign up to the pledge. The Pledge is attached as **Appendix A**.

2. Councillor Pledge on Standards

- 2.1 This Pledge is made in conjunction with the Members’ Code of Conduct and forms part of an ethical code which binds all Councillors of the City and County of Swansea.

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening process took place prior to the consultation period. The outcome indicated that it was low priority and a full report was not required.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A City and County of Swansea - Councillor Pledge on Standards

Councillor Pledge on Standards

This Pledge is made in conjunction with the Members' Code of Conduct and forms part of an ethical code, which binds all Councillors of the City and County of Swansea.

In accordance with the decision of Council on 9 June 2011 (Minute 29 refers) to adopt the "Dealing with Complaints by One Councillor against another" mediation process, I hereby confirm that I will always attempt to resolve any grievances through that mediation process.

As a Councillor elected to the City and County of Swansea, I am committed to the highest standards in public life and support the Nolan Principles of:

• Selflessness	• Objectivity	• Openness	• Leadership
• Integrity	• Accountability	• Honesty	

In order to achieve the Nolan Principles, I Will:

Selflessness and Stewardship

- 1) Protect the interests of the Council, the City and County of Swansea and its people and never to act in my own interests in carrying out my duties as a Councillor.

Integrity

- 2) Act according to the highest standards of probity in carrying out my various duties as a Councillor.

Promotion of Equality and Respect for Others

- 3) Lead by example, promoting equality and respect for others whenever I am representing Swansea and its residents.

Objectivity and Propriety

- 4) Consider all issues and cases on their merits and follow the principles of good decision making set out in Article 13 of the Council's Constitution.
- 5) Carry out my duties and responsibilities with due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people and to consider all business of the Council whether it affects the interests of my Electoral Division (Locality) and / or the interests of the City and County of Swansea and its residents on this basis.

Duty to uphold the Law

- 6) Be fully aware of my duties and responsibilities under the Members' Code of Conduct and have regard to the advice and guidance issued by Standards Committee, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer.

Accountability and Openness

- 7) Be aware of and carry out my duty in dealing with confidential matters.
- 8) Support and Promote the conduct of the Council's business being carried out in an open and transparent manner.

Training and Personal Development

- 9) Regularly review my training needs and undertake appropriate development opportunities to properly fulfil my Councillor duties.

Leadership

- 10) Seek to work towards the City and County of Swansea becoming a beacon of best practice.

Councillor	
Date	
Signature	