

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding should be considered in conjunction with the Members' Code of Conduct and forms part of the ethical code which binds all Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

As an Elected Member of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council I agree to:

1. Represent the people of Rhondda Cynon Taf equally and without discrimination. I will show respect at all times and consideration for others and not use bullyingⁱ language or behaviour towards others.
2. Acknowledge all issues that are brought to my attention by residents of the County Borough and act appropriately and timely following receipt of such information, ensuring I act in the best interests of the residents and the Council as a whole.
3. Ensure that the Council's resources are used both lawfully and prudently, when discharging my duties and responsibilities.
4. Undertake my role in a professional manner whether in a physical or virtual setting when representing the Council and the residents that I serve.
5. Undertake my role and the duties aligned in a safe manner, ensuring the safety of myself, colleagues and residents whether through a physical or virtual setting.
6. Promote civility online through any digital engagement and social media platforms that I utilise, providing a clear statement of intent as to engagement through a civil and open manner.
7. Abide by the Council's Constitution, Rules of Procedure and Council policies and procedures as advised upon during my term of office.
8. Have regard to the contributions made by colleagues, officers and public speakers during Council meetings, demonstrating mutual respect regardless of political opinions and positively demonstrating a show of working together for the benefit of the communities within the County Borough.
9. Safeguard and promote the life chances of children looked after by the Council and diligently discharge my responsibilities as Corporate parent of those children, Safeguarding both Vulnerable Children and Adults.
10. Act according to the highest standards of probity in carrying out my various duties as a Councillor
11. Adhere to and respect the Members' Code of Conduct and have proper regard to the advice and guidance issued by the Council's Standards Committee, including adherence to the provisions of any Local Resolution Protocol proposed by the Council's Standards Committee.

12. Support and promote the conduct of the Council's business being carried out in an open and transparent manner and ensure that information provided to me in a confidential setting is not disclosed and made available in the public domain.
13. Promote and support these commitments by leadership and by example and act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence
14. Proactively take forward the training opportunities provided to me, including all training which has been identified as mandatory in the Member Development Programme, or equivalent, to equip me to carry out my duties as a Councillor.

By signing the declaration, I confirm that I will undertake my duties as outlined above.

Member's Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)	BARRY STEPHENS
Member's Signature	B Stephens
Date	08.02.24

After signing, please send this form to the Head of Democratic Services.

ⁱ Bullying can be characterised as offensive, intimidating, malicious, insulting or humiliating behaviour. Such behaviour may happen once or be part of a pattern of behaviour. Bullying behaviour attempts to undermine an individual or a group of individuals, is detrimental to their confidence and capability, and may adversely affect their health. This can be contrasted with the legitimate challenges which a member can make in questioning policy or scrutinising performance.