

Councillors in the news '24

West Suffolk Council - Serious breach of conduct rules, including bullying, discrimination and harassment

July '24

- Two Councillors breached six rules of the councillors' code of conduct
- Both councillors breached rules relating to bullying, disclosing confidential information, using their positions to the advantage or disadvantage of themselves or anyone else, and bringing their role or local authority into disrepute.
- One of the councillors also broke rules relating to harassment and treating other councillors and members of the public with respect.
- One of the councillor broke rules relating to respect for volunteers and employees of the council or other partner organisations, and discrimination unlawfully against a person.
- Sanctions imposed on them include writing a letter of apology to complainants.
- One councillor will be removed from his seat on the officer appointments committee and as leader of their group.

Worcestershire - Former county council chairman found guilty of gross misconduct in police role July '24

- A SPECIAL constable and councillor who posed as a woman on social media to exchange explicit images with men has been found guilty of gross misconduct.
- A former chairman of Worcestershire County Council, used a fake Facebook profile to contact multiple men, a Warwickshire Police misconduct panel heard on June 28.
- The 26-year-old claimed he was 'having a joke' but the hearing found those involved had been deceived. The panel found he had breached the standards of professional behaviour in respect of honesty and integrity, and discreditable conduct.
- The Councillor had been a county councillor since November 2019 and chairman since May 2023. He stepped down from his role as chairman on May 16

Dacorum Borough Council - Former Council leader suspended following misconduct allegations – July '24

- An investigation has been launched by the council to examine misconduct claims made against the politician, who was also the local Group leader.
- Alleged misconduct
 - failed to treat the complainants with respect;
 - constituted harassment;
 - failed to promote equalities as required by the Code of Conduct;
 - and actions and behaviours had the potential to bring the Council into disrepute
- Both complaints dismissed at the Standards committee on 12th September 2024 on the basis that
 - The Complaint is insufficiently particularised
 - not satisfied on the balance of probabilities, that the alleged factual allegations occurred
 - was not satisfied that the facts amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Vale of Glamorgan - Councillor to face disciplinary hearing after misconduct claim – July '29

- Councillor facing standards committee for breach of the members' code of conduct including failing to provide the council with accurate information in a business grant application using their council email for private business matters and acting improperly in sending emails for their benefit and their spouses personal business interests.
- Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) is alleging a failure to comply with 7 sections of the members' code of conduct.
- PSOW investigation report: "The council's internal audit investigation concluded that the member failed to provide the council with accurate information attempted to gain grant funding when it was apparent claims were not justified failed to inform or update the council in respect of the occupancy and therefore business rates liability for particular properties provided contradictory information when applying for grant funding made enquiries for grants and misled the council, and caused an eligible company to miss out on a grant to which it was entitled.
- "The ombudsman considered that the serious and concerning findings of the council's internal audit investigation gave rise to concerns about the member's conduct which appears to have been contrary to the principles which govern the conduct of members which required the member to act with selflessness, honesty, integrity and in the public interest."

West Norfolk - Councillor facings allegations of misconduct storms out of meeting – July '24

- A councillor facing allegations of misconduct has stormed out of a hearing being conducted in secret claiming it is being carried out “unlawfully” when the panel refused their request for two representatives (legal advisors) to sit in on the discussions.
- Allegations relate to correspondence between the Councillor and senior officers and other councillors.
- The meeting continued in the councillor's absence and members voted to exclude the press and public.
- The decision for it to be held in private was due to the hearing disclosing exempt information relating to individuals not present at the meeting and who would not have the ability to defend themselves.
- Following the Councillors walkout, he was not be able to defend himself either at the hearing.
- As part of the reprimand he was required to stand down from his roles on the standards committee and the investigations and disciplinary committee, which he set up