

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No.
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TITLE OF REPORT: CODE OF CONDUCT SCENARIOS FOR DISCUSSION

The scenarios are attached.

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Code of Conduct Scenarios for Discussion

[From Independent Person workshop run by Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd, 1 December 2015]

For all scenarios, how would you approach the issue under the Council's Member Code of Conduct and other Council policies which govern behaviour?

Scenario One – Road Rage

A Councillor was on his way to a Council meeting when he got stuck in a traffic jam. The jam was caused by a road survey that led Highways Agency workers to close one lane of the dual carriageway. The Councillor pulled over and challenged a highways worker over the lane closure, complaining that he was going to be late for an important Council meeting. A policeman, who was with the highways staff, walked over to investigate and an argument broke out. The Councillor was then cautioned and as he walked away called the policeman a f***** idiot.

He was arrested and fined £80 for a public order offence. A complaint about his conduct was subsequently made by the highways worker to the council's Monitoring Officer.

Scenario Two – Twitter

Following the suicide of a local huntsman which was widely reported, a Councillor re-tweeted a link to the story with the comment "the best use of a gun I can think of". He then tweeted "If you choose to own a gun and kill for pleasure, then it's best you kill yourself".

A number of members of the public complain to the Monitoring Officer and the story is reported in the national papers.

Scenario Three – Neighbours

There is a contentious development of 40 houses happening in a ward. One of the Councillors lives adjacent to the area for development. At the meeting to discuss the planning application the Chairman says that the Councillor should not take part in the discussion because he has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. The councillor says he is speaking on behalf of the community and has a right to take part, so although he declares a personal interest, takes part in the debate and votes against the application.

The Chairman complains to the Monitoring Officer that the Councillor failed to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

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