

CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT



IN COLLABORATION WITH SLCC, NALC, OVW, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

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WELCOME TO THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT NEWSLETTER



IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO OVERSEE “CIVILITY AND RESPECT”

The membership of the Improvement and Development Board (IDB) has been reviewed and is now made up of chairs and/or CEOs from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), Forum of County Associations of Local Councils (CALCs), Local Government Association (LGA), Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA), Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO).

The board is chaired by an independent Chair – James Alexander who has local government experience and works for the LGA. IDB now oversees Civility & Respect (amongst other things) as one of its key improvement initiatives. It has set up two civility and respect related taskforces to make recommendations for improvements.

The IDB Intervention Taskforce

The Civility and Respect Continuum defines “critical impact”. This is very rare but when it does happen it can be catastrophic for all involved and will need external intervention.

The taskforce is made up of an experienced district council CEO who has chaired two Critical Intervention Boards in the local council sector; another CEO and a Director of Legal Services (both experienced officers in principal authorities who have been involved in turning around critical failures); and representatives of CALCs, LGA, NALC and SLCC.

IDB set its Terms of Reference which are “to develop means and resources for identifying and supporting councils at risk of major financial, business and governance failures”.

The taskforce has met and has set itself the target of taking a set of recommendations to the IDB Meeting on 12 November 2024.



Critical Impact

Defined on the Continuum as:

- Resignations of multiple employees and Councillors
- Repeated significant expense to settle employment disputes
- Career changing impact for employees
- Councils unable to recruit and replace officers or retain them
- Reputational risk for Council within the region and potentially on a national scale



The Civility and Respect Taskforce

This taskforce is tasked by IDB to “advance civility and respect and reduce standards issues within the sector”.

The members of the taskforce to-date are Steve Trice PSLCC (SLCC) (Chair), Lance Allan FSLCC (SLCC), Linda Larter MBE FSLCC (SLCC), Cllr Sue Baxter (NALC), Jane Moore (NALC), Lucy Dalby (CALCs); and Sarah Mason (CALCs). NALC is in the process of identifying a third representative.

It has met once and decided to identify its initial priorities. These are:

- ♥ a review of the Civility & Respect Pledge and how it could be improved/promoted (for example - the taskforce welcomed and supported the proposal that the criteria for Local Council Awards would include a requirement for councils to have signed up to the Pledge)
- ♥ developing tools and measures for self-assessment
- ♥ exploring how monitoring officers advice, guidance and decisions could be improved and made more consistent



CIVILITY & RESPECT THEMED SUMMIT (6 NOVEMBER)

Join this one-day, virtual summit for an opportunity to engage with the latest advice and guidance relating to the Civility & Respect Project.

Sector experts will lead the themed sessions encouraging in-depth discussion and debate. Open to clerks, deputy clerks, responsible financial officers from councils of any size across England and Wales, and anyone with an interest in the local council sector.

6 November 2024, 9:55am – 4:00pm

Price

Members: £65 + VAT

Non-members: £130 + VAT

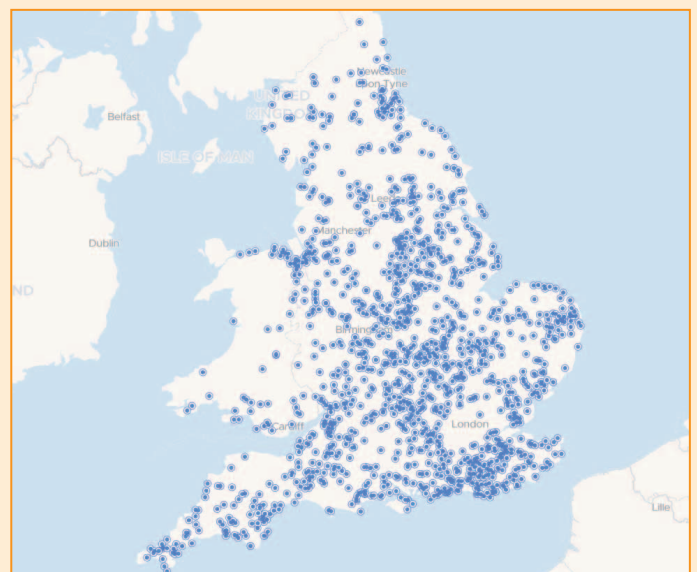
Bring along a fellow clerk, officer or councillor and get their non-member place for £65 + VAT!

Visit <https://www.slcc.co.uk/event/civility-respect-themed-summit-6-november/> to book your place

1571 LOCAL COUNCILS HAVE NOW SIGNED THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Towns and villages are demonstrably and immeasurably improved by what local council councillors, clerks and other employees do in their communities day in and day out. The pledge is a public declaration that in what they do, town, parish and community councils are committed to civility and respect. It outlines what they do/will do as part of that commitment. Research has found that taking a voluntary pledge of this nature can impact (for the better) on behaviour and cooperation.

If your council has not yet signed-up to the pledge they can find out more about it at www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project.



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Please visit our dedicated civility and respect pages for lots more information and support

[SLCC | Civility and Respect Project](#) and [NALC | Civility and Respect Project](#)