

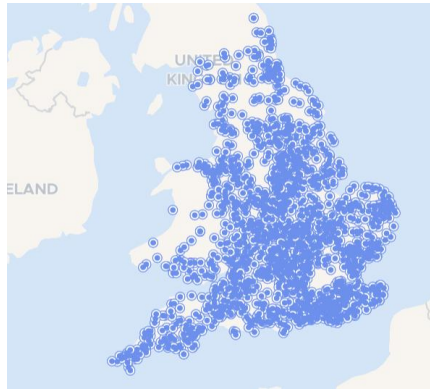
**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Council</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Cathy Dean, Communities Manager</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>13 Civility and Respect Pledge (LCAS)</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) in England is a program that celebrates and supports local councils (parish and town councils) that meet high standards in governance, community engagement, and development. The scheme offers a tiered approach—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—to help councils improve and demonstrate their achievements to local residents, with accreditation managed by independent peer panels.</p> <p>One of the criteria for the bronze award is that the council signs the Civility and Respect Pledge.</p>		
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The pledge is easy for parish and town councils to sign up for, enabling them to demonstrate their commitment to addressing poor behaviour across and fostering positive changes that support civil and respectful conduct.</p> <p>By signing the Pledge, the council is agreeing to treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff</li><li>• Has signed up to a <a href="#">Code of Conduct for councillors</a></li><li>• Has good governance arrangements in place, including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy</li><li>• Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise</li><li>• Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens</li><li>• Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example, the Local Council Award Scheme</li></ul>		

- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

The pledge aims to improve civility and respect in public life, emphasising the critical role of good governance in ensuring a well-functioning democracy across all levels. More than 2000 town and parish councils have already signed the civility and respect pledge. The graphic shows the location of councils that have signed.



This is the first step in a larger piece of work in working towards the Gold Award in the Local Government Award Scheme.

Achieving an award boosts the council’s credibility with local residents and partners, demonstrating that the council is proactive, professional, and committed to transparency.

It provides formal recognition for the dedication and hard work of both councillors and officers. Holding an award shows the community that the council is operating at a high standard, which can enhance trust in local decision-making.

<b>Financial</b>	Minimal
<b>Environmental</b>	No implications for this decision.
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	Signing the Civility and Respect Pledge reinforces Congleton Town Council’s commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion by promoting a culture where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. It helps ensure that councillors, staff and the community can participate in local democracy free from bullying, harassment or discrimination. By adopting the pledge, the Council demonstrates leadership, sets clear behavioural expectations, and supports a welcoming environment where diverse voices are valued and heard.
<b>Decision Request</b>	Congleton Town Council agrees to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge and commits to working towards achieving the Gold Award in the Local Government Award Scheme.