

Protocol - Member Conduct at Meetings
As agreed by Standards Committee January 13th 2010

Political interaction is one of the most powerful of the checks and balances which are built into policy development and service delivery. Such interaction should be robust and challenging but must stay within the Code of Conduct for Members. This protocol applies to all meetings held within the Council.

Members should at all times:-

1. Treat others with respect
 - Allow others to speak and explain their position without persistent interruption
 - Avoid unreasonable or excessive personal attack
 - Challenge unacceptable behaviours in others
 - Apologise immediately if they are aware they have caused personal offence
2. Not bully or intimidate others
 - Avoid language that is abusive, malicious, insulting, humiliating, defamatory or offensive
 - Avoid intimidating body language
3. Be aware of the need to respect confidentiality and treat information as such where appropriate
4. Not bring the office of councillor or Leicester City Council into disrepute
5. Avoid attempting to compromise the impartiality of officers
 - Officers are neutral and must not be persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality
6. Address comments to the Chair and avoid direct conversations with other members
7. Take personal responsibility for their behaviour and avoid the need for intervention from the Chair
8. Avoid playing to the public gallery, which could result in disruption of the meeting.