



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMPLAINT FORM :

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

A. Your details

1. Please provide us with your name and contact details. Anonymous complaints will only be considered if there is independent evidence to substantiate the complaint.

Title:	Mr
First name:	Adrian
Last name:	McNeece
Address:	
Contact telephone:	
Email address:	
Signature:	
Date of complaint:	31 January 2016

Your address and contact details will not usually be released unless necessary or to deal with your complaint.

The following people may see this form:

- Monitoring Officer of the Council
- Standards Committee members
- Council's Independent Person(s)
- The subject member(s)
- the Parish Clerk (if applicable)

If you have serious concerns about your name and a summary, or details of your complaint being released, please complete **Section C** of this Form and also discuss your reasons or concerns with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Please tell us which complainant type best describes you:

- A member of the public
- An elected or co-opted Member of the Council
- An independent member of a Standards Committee
- A Member of Parliament
- A Monitoring Officer
- Other council employee, contractor or agent of the Council
- Other ()

2. Equality Monitoring Form - please fill in the attached form.

B. Making your complaint

3. Please provide us with the name of the Member(s) you believe have breached the Council's Code of Conduct:

Title	First name	Last name
Cllr	James	Cartwright

4. Please explain in this section (or on separate sheet(s)) what the Member is alleged to have done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one Member you should clearly explain what each individual person has done, with dates / witnesses to substantiate the alleged breach.

It is also important that you provide all the evidence you wish to have taken into account. For example:

- You should be specific, wherever possible, about exactly what you are alleging the Member said or did. For instance, instead of writing that the Member insulted you, you should state what it was they said or did to insult you.
- You should provide the dates of the alleged incidents wherever possible. If you cannot provide exact dates it is important to give a general timeframe.

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- You should confirm whether there are any witnesses to the alleged conduct and provide their names and contact details if possible.
- You should provide any relevant background information or other relevant documentary evidence to support your allegation(s).

Please provide us with the details of your complaint. Continue on a separate sheet if there is not enough space on this form. (Evidence Attached)

1. I am complaining about Cllr James Cartwright's comments on his Twitter accounts. At 20.03hrs on 27 December 2015 he published a tweet stating;

"Look out all – the hapless former Cllr @AdrianMcNeece fresh on the heels of a string of failures is looking for another lost cause!!"

2. On 15 December 2015 Cllr Cartwright published a tweet stating;

"@davebromage @galdam @adrianmcneece @scotramsay better to be a sheep than an ass!"

3. On 15 December 2015 Cllr Cartwright published a tweet stating;

"@galdam @davebromage @adrianmcneece @scotramsay my belief is entirely based on fact. Perhaps the minority of non-believers are deluded"

4. On 15 December 2015 Cllr Cartwright published a tweet stating;

"@davebromage @galdam @adrianmcneece @scotramsay yes I can. Google it. Read a book (if you can)"

5. On 28 January 2016 Cllr Cartwright published a tweet following his censure by the EHDC Standards Sub Committee stating;

"@EastHerts EHDC clearly condone the behaviour of rude, abusive, intimidating bullies directed towards the majority of their elected members."

6. On 28 January 2016 Cllr Cartwright published a tweet following his censure by the EHDC Standards Sub Committee stating;

"@ScotRamsay @StortSkeptic @davebromage they didn't – no-one found my words were insulting or rude."

7. On 28 December 2015 I received text messages from Cllr Cartwright to my iPhone from his mobile number 07902 268222 stating:

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

"You are a sad deluded man who deserves every insult earned by his pathetic behaviour"

"At least I have a personality and intellect. Go away and find yet another lost cause to champion – it is all you excel at!"

On 28 december 2015 I asked Cllr Cartwright via text "Don't text me again". On 30 December Cllr Cartwright sent more text messages, including the statement "I reserve the right to text you at any time". (Evidence attached)

I refer to The Code of Conduct ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'B';

Page 1 – Introductory declaration subscribed to by all members

As a member or co-opted member of East Hertfordshire District Council I have a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with our staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

In accordance with the Localism Act provisions, when acting in this capacity I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieving best value for our residents and maintain public confidence in this authority.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Page 3 - Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.

Page 4 - Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside.

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

C. Confidentiality of complainant and the complaint details

Only complete this next section if you are requesting that your identity is kept confidential

5. In the interests of fairness and in compliance with the rules of natural justice, we believe Members who are complained about have a right to know who has made the complaint and the substance of the allegation(s) made against him / her. We are, therefore, unlikely to withhold your personal details or the details of your complaint unless you have good reasons to believe that you have justifiable grounds, for example:
- to believe you may be victimised or harassed by the Member(s) against whom you are submitting a written complaint (or by a person associated with the same); or
 - may receive less favourable treatment from the Council because of the seniority of the Member against whom you are submitting a written complaint in terms of any existing Council service provision or any tender / contract that you may have or are about to submit to the Council.

Please note that requests for confidentiality or requests for suppression of the personal and complaint details will not automatically be granted. The Assessment Sub-Committee will consider the request alongside the substance of your complaint and the Monitoring Officer will then contact you with the decision. If your request for confidentiality is not granted, we will usually allow you the opportunity, if you so wish, of withdrawing your complaint.

However, it is important to understand that - in exceptional circumstances, where the matter complained about is very serious - we may proceed with an investigation (or other action) and may have no choice but to disclose your personal and complaint details, because of the allegation(s) made, even if you have expressly asked us not to.

Please provide us with details of why you believe we should withhold your name and/or the details of your complaint:

(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

D. Remedy sought

7. Please indicate the remedy or remedies you are looking for or hoping to achieve by submitting this complaint.

1. A personal letter of apology from Cllr Cartwright to myself for the offence he has caused.
2. A public apology by Cllr Cartwright at the next full meeting of the council.
3. A press release apology by the council to local media organisations.
4. A suitable sanction by the council against Cllr Cartwright for his behaviour, as a demonstration that his disrespectful conduct has consequences, and that he must be seen to be accountable for his conduct.

(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)

E. Additional information

8. Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes fax and electronic submissions. Frivolous, vexatious and politically motivated tit-for-tat complaints are likely to be rejected.
9. In line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you if you have a disability that prevents you from making your complaint in writing. We can also help if English is not your first language.
10. If you need any support in completing this form, please contact the Monitoring Officer as soon as possible.

Monitoring Officer Contact details:

The Monitoring Officer – Simon Drinkwater
East Herts Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8EQ

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Monitoring Form – Local Assessments of Complaints Standards Committee - Assessment Sub Committee

Working towards equal opportunities

East Hertfordshire District Council is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity in both employment and service provision. We seek to ensure that no person receives less favorable treatment on the grounds of gender, race, or ethnic origins, marital status, disability, age, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, religion, trade union involvement or political belief or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

White

White British
White Irish
Any other White
background

Mixed

White and Black
Caribbean
White and Black
African
Any other mixed
background

Asian

Indian
Pakistani
Bangladeshi
Any other Asian
background

Black

Caribbean
African
Any other Black
background

Chinese or other ethnic group

Chinese
Other

*Categories used are those utilised by
the Office of Population Censuses and
Surveys

Do you have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect
on your ability that you wish to declare under the Disability Discrimination Act?

Yes

No

Tweets

Media

Likes



James Cartwright @jamesfec 15/12/2015

@galdam @davebromage

@AdrianMcNeece @ScotRamsay my belief is entirely based on fact.

Perhaps the minority of non-believers are deluded.



← In reply to @davebromage



James Cartwright @jamesfec 15/12/2015

@davebromage @galdam

@AdrianMcNeece @ScotRamsay better to be a sheep than an ass!



← In reply to @galdam



James Cartwright @jamesfec 15/12/2015

@galdam @davebromage

@AdrianMcNeece @ScotRamsay re enlightened- I'm just one of billions lucky believers! #majority





James Cartwright

@jamesfec



look out all - the hapless former Cllr
[@AdrianMcNeece](#) fresh on the heels
of a string of failures is looking for
another lost cause to lose!!

27/12/2015, 20:03



Adrian McNeece @AdrianM... 28/12/2015

@jamesfec Sour grapes Cllr &
tweeting insults from alternate Twitter
accounts is transparent.



Reply to James Cartwright



 Blocked

Cllr J Cartwright

@james_cllr

East Herts District Councillor representing Puckeridge Ward. Chairman, Standon Parish Council.

 Puckeridge, England

150 FOLLOWING

60 FOLLOWERS

Tweets

Media

Likes



Cllr J Cartwright @james_cllr

22m

@EastHerts EHDC clearly condone the behaviour of rude, abusive, intimidating bullies directed towards the majority of their elected members.



 Cllr J Cartwright retweeted

Tweets

Media

Likes

← in reply to @davebromage



James Cartwright @jamesfec

1h

@davebromage @galdam
@AdrianMcNeece @ScotRamsay
better to be a sheep than an ass!



← in reply to @galdam



James Cartwright @jamesfec

1h

@galdam @davebromage
@AdrianMcNeece @ScotRamsay re
enlightened- I'm just one of billions
lucky believers! #majority



← in reply to @davebromage



James Cartwright @jamesfec

1h

@davebromage @galdam
@AdrianMcNeece @ScotRamsay yes I
can. Google it. Read a book (if you
can)



Tweets

Media

Likes

← In reply to @davebromage



Cllr J Cartwright @james_cllr

8h

@davebromage @ScotRamsay
@StortSkeptic accurate and
appropriate descriptions well
deserved.



← In reply to @ScotRamsay



Cllr J Cartwright @james_cllr

8h

@ScotRamsay @StortSkeptic
@davebromage they didn't - no-one
found my words were insulting or
rude.



↻ Cllr J Cartwright retweeted



Scot Ramsay @ScotRamsay

9h

@james_cllr @EastHerts That's funny,
I'm sure they condemned the rude
and insulting behaviour of a
councillor. @StortSkeptic
@davebromage