

**DORSET COUNCIL
AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE (HEARING) SUB-COMMITTEE**

COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

DECISION NOTICE

Subject Member: Councillor Alex Fuhrmann
Date of Hearing/Decision: 25 February 2026
Decision: Complaint partially upheld
Sanction: written apology and training

1. Summary of the Complaint

Councillors Jane Somper, Laura Beddow and Andrew Parry alleged that Councillor Alex Fuhrmann breached the Dorset Council Councillor Code of Conduct in his comments on Facebook and Instagram on 18 December 2024 directed at Councillors Jane Somper and Laura Beddow.

2. Parts of the Code of Conduct alleged to have been breached

The Complainants alleged that Councillor Alex Fuhrmann breached the following parts of the Code of Conduct:

- Code section 1.1 a councillor treats other councillors with respect.
- Code section 2.1 A councillor does not bully any person
- Code section 2.2 A councillor does not harass any person
- Code section 2.3 A councillor promotes equalities and does not discriminate unlawfully against any person (specifically Age and Sex for this complaint)

3. Hearing Sub-Committee

The complaint was considered by the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee on 25 February 2026.

Councillors Jane Somper and Andrew Parry were in attendance virtually and did not address the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Alex Fuhrmann did not attend, having confirmed in advance that he would not attend or take part. The Sub-Committee considered whether to proceed and agreed to continue with the hearing in Councillor Fuhrmann's absence.

A recording and full minutes of the hearing are available on the Council website:
[Agenda for Audit and Governance \(Hearing\) Sub-Committee on Wednesday, 25th February, 2026, 4.00 pm - Dorset Council](#)

4. The Hearing Sub-Committee's Decisions

On the balance of probabilities, having reviewed the papers provided in the agenda pack, considered the presentation by the Investigating Officer, advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and consulted with the Independent Person the Sub-Committee found:

- Failure to treat Councillors Jane Somper and Laura Beddow with respect – Breach
- Bullying – No breach
- Harassment – No breach

- Discrimination – No breach

5. Sanctions

The Sub-Committee decided on the following sanctions:

- Councillor Fuhrmann is required to make a written apology to Councillors Jane Somper and Laura Beddow;
- the Monitoring Officer is instructed to arrange training for Councillor Fuhrmann; specifically in relation to the Councillor Code of Conduct and use of social media by councillors

Appeal

There is no right of appeal against this decision.

Jonathan Mair
Monitoring Officer
Dorset Council

[Date]