

Statement from Councillor Ben Green

I wish to formally confirm that I fully endorse the findings and conclusions detailed in the investigation report. The process was both thorough and impartial, ensuring that all relevant evidence was carefully examined. I have full confidence in the solicitor's professionalism and the integrity of the investigation.

The report correctly identifies significant breaches of the Code of Conduct, particularly regarding bullying and disrespectful behaviour, which created a hostile environment. The most concerning finding is that Councillor Harrison's social media conduct incited a death threat against me. Despite police intervention and a request for the offending content to be removed, Councillor Harrison declined to act, a decision which aggravated an already serious situation.

This incident had broader implications beyond my personal safety, directly impacting local governance. Two parish council meetings — at South Witham and Great Ponton — were cancelled or postponed due to safety concerns. The disruption caused to these meetings reflects how harmful conduct can undermine the democratic process and diminish public trust in local institutions.

I recognise that reaching these conclusions required an objective and balanced assessment of both the facts and the applicable standards. Given the rigour of the investigation and the clear reasoning provided, I believe the conclusions represent a fair and accurate account of events, as well as a proper interpretation of the Council's Code of Conduct. The finding that this behaviour brought both the office of Councillor and the Council into disrepute is particularly important, as it highlights the need for high standards in public life.

While this has been a difficult matter, I hope that by addressing it fully, we can move forward with renewed commitment to the principles of respect and responsible conduct in public office.