



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **OUR PLEDGE TO OPPOSE DISCRIMINATION IN ALL ITS FORMS**

**S**ince coming into being over 40 years ago, Stockport Council has been a beacon for democracy. In our local democracy freedom of political expression and debate has always been robust and uninhibited. Issues like education, health, policing, employment, housing, the local economy and community safety are important to each and every one of us. It is vital that we, as local politicians, debate and discuss how we work together to make Stockport a better place to live and work and a strong and cohesive community.

**I**n the course of political debate and election campaigns it is inevitable that statements made by one party will be opposed by others. That is the nature of the free country in which we live. But there can be no place in our democratic process for those who seek to incite or encourage, blatantly or covertly, racial hatred, prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of race or nationality. Elected politicians must represent everyone, not pitch one group against another for short-term political gain.

**We**, the undersigned, undertake to:

1. Represent the interests of all of our constituents, regardless of race, sex, colour, religion or any other discriminating factor, and promote good race relations;
2. Reject all forms of racial violence, racial harassment and unlawful racial discrimination;
3. Not publish, or seek to have published by others, or in any way endorse any material including pamphlets, leaflets and posters, likely to generate hostility or division between people of different racial, national or religious groups;
4. Ensure that in any dealings with the public that no words or actions are used which may encourage others to discriminate or stir up racial or religious hatred;
5. Make sure that everyone involved in our campaigns understands and abides by these principles and call upon all those involved in promoting or reporting political debate, especially the media, to do the same.

### **Signed:**

Cllr Alex Ganotis, Leader of the Labour Group

Cllr Iain Roberts, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Cllr Syd Lloyd, Leader of the Conservative Group

Cllr Adrian Nottingham, Leader of the Independent Ratepayers

Cllr Mags Kirkham, Leader of the Stockport Residents Group

**July 2016**