

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 26 JULY 2018

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the Council**

By Susan Woodward

Question

“Will the Leader join me, politicians across political Parties and many Staffordshire residents in condemning the behaviour of the Member of Parliament for Burton?”

Reply

Those of us who have read the reports in the Sunday paper will be disgusted by the stories about the Member of Parliament for Burton & Uttoxeter. He has suspended himself from the Whip while an independent investigation is conducted by QCs and his Association are meeting to discuss his position. I encourage all of us in public life at whatever level to adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life established by Lord Nolan and the Committee on Standards in Public Life:

1. Selflessness – Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
2. Integrity – Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
3. Objectivity – Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
4. Accountability – Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
5. Openness – Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
6. Honesty – Holders of public office should be truthful.
7. Leadership – Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour.

This Code is publicly available on the Conservative Party website and I would hope all Political Parties adhere to these seven principles.