

**DECISION RECORD**

<b>Date document may be made public</b> (date of decision unless there are reasons why the information is exempt from publication at the date of decision):	June 2025
<b>Reason exempt from publication at the point of decision (if applicable)</b>	n/a
<b>Decision Maker</b> Assistant Director (Legal and Governance)	Ref:
Delegated Authority :	
<b>Part B, Paragraph 18 of the Constitution</b>	
<b>Decision :</b>  At a meeting of Council on 27th February 2025 Cllr Gardiner raised his arm at the meeting in a manner reminiscent of a nazi salute and repeated the words "I'm a fascist, I'm a fascist". While the actions were intended to be ironic, such a gesture while undertaking the business of Council is inappropriate and is a breach of the requirements for Councillors to treat people with respect and not to conduct themselves in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or the Council into disrepute.  However, Cllr Gardiner has offered a sincere full apology at the full Council meeting of 20 March 2025 and remorse for any unintended offence caused by his conduct and there is evidence which suggests that the Councillor was under a great deal of personal stress at the time of the offence which may have affected his judgement and no further action is required.	
<b>Reasons for Decision:</b> The member Code of Conduct provides in relation to members of Council provides that:  3.1. You must treat others with respect.  3.4 You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or the Council into disrepute.  The words and actions of Cllr Gardiner in the course of his office as a Councillor while undertaking the business of Council were inappropriate and in breach of the obligations upon Councillors.	
<b>Nature of Decision:</b>	<b>Key/Non-key</b>
<b>Facts:</b>  (a) At a meeting of Full Council on 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 Cllr Gardiner responded to barracking in the Chamber in the form of calls across the meeting by fellow members of Council, by putting his arm in the air in a manner consistent with that of a Nazi salute and called out "I'm a fascist, I'm a fascist";	

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(b) Cllr Gardiner's intention was to provide a sarcastic or ironic response to barracking in the Council Chamber;	
(c) At the subsequent meeting of Full Council on 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 Cllr Gardiner acknowledged that his behaviour had caused offence and apologised for so doing.	
Signature of Decision Maker: Signed .....	
Date of decision	June 2025
.....	
<b>For completion by the Scrutiny Office:</b>	
Date of publication to members	June 2025
Can the decision be called in? (If decision liable to call in, decision will not come into affect for 5 working days after publication)	Yes/No
Date decision comes into force	June 2025
Response of the Leader of the Labour Group Leader	

This form, together with supporting information, must be lodged immediately with the Scrutiny Office, by dispatch by email to [decisionrecord@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:decisionrecord@hullcc.gov.uk)