



CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct is adopted pursuant to the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members of the council.

This code applies to you as a member or co-opted member of this Council when you act in that role and it is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this code.

1. SELFLESSNESS

You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself.

2. OBJECTIVITY

In carrying out public business you must make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

You are accountable for your decisions and actions to the public and must submit yourself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.

4. OPENNESS

You must be as open as possible about your actions and those of your Council, and must be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

5. HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned, must not behave improperly and must on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

6. LEADERSHIP

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

7. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

- i. You must ensure that you are aware of and comply with all legal obligations that apply to you as a member or co-opted member of the Council and act within the law.
- ii. You must treat others with respect
- iii. You must not bully (1) any person.
- iv. You must not do anything that compromises, or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of the Council.

8. You must not disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you of which you are aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature except where:
 - i. you have the consent of a person authorised to give it
 - ii. you are required by law to do so
 - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - iv. the disclosure is:
 - a. reasonable and in the public interest;
 - b. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Council and in accordance with current legislation.
9. You must not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of your role as a member for your own personal advantage.
10. When making decisions on behalf of or as part of the Council you must have regard to any professional advice provided to you by the Council's officers.
11. When using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Council:
 - i. you must act in accordance with the Council's reasonable requirements;
 - ii. you must make sure that you do not use resources improperly for political purposes and do not use them at all for party political purposes.

REGISTERING AND DECLARING INTERESTS

12. You must within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify the W.W.C.'s Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of someone with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.
13. You must disclose the interest at any meeting of the Council at which you are present, where you have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive matter'.
14. Following any disclosure of an interest not on the Council's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.
15. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.

(1) Bullying is defined as offensive, intimidating, malicious, insulting or humiliating behaviour which attempts to undermine, hurt or humiliate an individual or group. It can have a damaging effect on a victim's confidence, capability and health. Bullying conduct can involve behaving in an abusive or threatening way, or making allegations about people in public, in the company of their colleagues, through the press or in blogs. It may happen once or be part of a pattern of behaviour, although minor isolated incidents are unlikely to be considered bullying.

Date effective from:	May 2018
Last review date:	May 2023
Next review date:	May 2024