

Old Bolsover Town Council Members' Code of Conduct

As a member or co-opted member of Old Bolsover Town Council I have a statutory responsibility to have regard to the following principles when representing the community and working constructively with staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

The Seven Statutory Principles

In accordance with the Localism Act provisions, when acting or appearing to act in my capacity as a councillor I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for our residents and maintain public confidence in the Council.

The principles of public life apply to anyone who works as a public officer-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the civil service, local government, the police, courts and probations services, Naps, and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office-holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also have application to all those in other sectors delivering public services.

SELFLESSNESS: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

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 families, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

OBJECTIVITY: Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

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.

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 reason for so doing.

HONESTY: Holders of public office should be truthful.

LEADERSHIP: Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

General Conduct

As a Member of the Council, I will ensure my conduct is in accordance with the statutory principles of the code of conduct by:

- Dealing with people fairly, appropriately and impartially.
- Acting in accordance with the Council's ICT policies, ensuring that ICT resources are not used improperly and having regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.
- Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of myself or others connected to me, to deter me from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the Council or the good governance of the Authority in a proper manner.
- Complying with the requirements of the Council's Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality by registering with the Monitoring Officer any item of hospitality that I receive.
- Exercising independent judgement and not compromising my position by placing myself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way I perform my duties as a member or co-opted member of my Authority.
- Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
- Being accountable for my decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by local residents.
- Contributing to making the Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible. I will do this by allowing residents to access information they are entitled to by law, helping them to understand the reasoning behind the decisions taken and enabling them to be informed when holding me and other members to account.
- Restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it.

- Behaving in accordance with the Council's legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within its policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Authority's resources.
- Valuing my colleagues and staff and engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect between us that is essential to good local government.
- Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside.
- Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community, with other organisations, as well as within this Authority.

Signed.....

Date.....