

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Code of Conduct for Councillors

I

being a duly elected Councillor/Co-opted Member for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council hereby declare that I will undertake my duties as follows:

1. I will represent the interests of the whole community and work constructively with our staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

2. **As a holder of public office** and as required by law I will behave in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for all our residents and maintain public confidence in the Council and any other body to which I am appointed by the Council and the office of councillor.

a. **SELFLESSNESS:** I will act solely in terms of the public interest. I will not act in such a way as to gain financial or other material benefits for myself, my family, or my friends.

b. **INTEGRITY:** I will not place myself under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence me in the performance of my official duties.

c. **OBJECTIVITY:** I will make choices on merit, in carrying out public business, including when making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits.

d. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** I will be accountable for my decisions and actions to the public and will submit myself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to my office.

e. **OPENNESS:** I will be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions I take. I will give reasons for my decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest or the law clearly demands.

f. **HONESTY:** I will declare any private interests relating to my public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interests.

g. **LEADERSHIP:** I will promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

3. As a Member of the Council I will act in accordance with the principles in paragraph 2 and, in particular, I will

a. Champion the needs of the whole community and all my constituents, including those who did not vote for me, and put the public interest first.

b. Deal with representations or enquiries from residents, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.

c. Not allow 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 Council in a proper manner.

- d. Exercise independent judgement and not compromise 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/Co-opted Member of the Council.
- e. Take account of all relevant information, including advice from statutory and other professional officers. I will remain objective and make decisions on merit.
- f. Be accountable for my decisions and cooperate when scrutinised internally and externally, including by local residents.
- g. Contribute to ensuring that decision-making processes are as open and transparent as possible to ensure the community understands the reasoning behind decisions and are informed when holding me and other Members to account.
- h. Behave in accordance with all my legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within the Council's policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Council's resources.
- i. Under no circumstances will I disclose confidential information (be that confidential by virtue of legislation or otherwise) unless I have express authority to do so and/or the law so requires.
- j. Value my colleagues and staff and engage with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect between us that is essential to good local government.
- k. Always treat people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with, fellow members and those I work alongside.
- l. Provide leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community with other organisations as well as within this Council.

4. I will register and disclose those interests that I am required by law to declare. I will do this by completing and submitting a signed declaration of my interests to the Monitoring Officer of the Council. I will keep the register updated and acknowledge that its contents are open to the public to inspect.

5. I will comply with any code of conduct for councillors that is properly established by the Council.

Signed:.....

Full name:.....

Date:.....

SCHEDULE

A pecuniary interest is a “disclosable pecuniary interest” if it is of a description specified in ***The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012*** (see table below) and either:

(a) it is an interest of a member, or

(b) it is an interest of the member’s spouse or civil partner, a person with whom the member is living as husband and wife, or a person with whom M is living as if they were civil partners

| Subject | Prescribed description |
|--|--|
| Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation | Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. |
| Sponsorship | Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 |
| Contracts | Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged. |
| Land | Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority. |
| Licences | Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer. |
| Corporate tenancies | Any tenancy where (to the member’s knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest. |
| Securities | Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the member’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class. |