

PREAMBLE**FOR INFORMATION ONLY****GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT****PREAMBLE**

The principles of public life apply to anyone who works as a public office-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 probation services, NDPBs, 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.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Holders of public office should be truthful and should 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.

OBJECTIVITY

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly on merit, using 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 reasons for so doing.

PERSONAL JUDGEMENT

Councillors may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Councillors should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers and its other employees.

DUTY TO UPHOLD THE LAW

Councillors should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

STEWARDSHIP

Councillors should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

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 change poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

NOTE: THIS PREAMBLE AND THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT SPECIFIED WITHIN IT ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY, AND THEY DO NOT FORM A PART OF THE COUNCIL'S CODE FOR ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES.