

The General Principles of Good Conduct

In Spring 2001 Parliament agreed 10 principles that should govern the conduct of members and co-opted members. The 10 principles are set out below and it is these principles on which the Model Code of Conduct is based.

SELFLESSNESS

1. Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

2. Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

OBJECTIVITY

3. Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

ACCOUNTABILITY

4. Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

OPENNESS

5. Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

PERSONAL JUDGEMENT

6. Members 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 OF OTHERS

7. Members 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 authorities' statutory officers and its other employees.

DUTY TO UPHOLD THE LAW

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

STEWARDSHIP

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

LEADERSHIP

10. Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should always act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.