



CODE OF CONDUCT

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Code of Conduct (“the Code”) has been adopted by the Council as required by Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”).
- 1.2 The Council has a statutory duty under the Act to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council (“Members”) and the Code sets out the standards that the Council expects Members to observe.
- 1.3 The Code is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the obligations that are placed on Members. It is the responsibility of individual Members to comply with the provisions of the Code as well as such other legal obligations as may apply to them from time to time.
- 1.4 The Code is consistent with the following principles (the “Nolan” principles of standards in public life):

Selflessness
Integrity
Objectivity
Accountability
Openness
Honesty
Leadership

2.0 Who does the Code apply to?

- 2.1 The Code applies to all Members of the Council and to all co-opted members of any committee, sub-committee or joint committee or sub-committee of the Council.

3.0 When does the Code apply?

- 3.1 The Code applies whenever a person is acting in his/her official capacity as a Member of the Council or co-opted member in the conduct of the Council’s business or acting as a representative of the Council.

4.0 What standards of Conduct are Members expected to observe?

Selflessness:

- 4.1 Members must always act in the public interest.
- 4.2 Members must never use their position as a member of the Council improperly to secure for themselves or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage.

- 4.3 Members must not use the Council's resources improperly for personal or party political purposes.

Integrity

- 4.4 Members must not do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Council.
- 4.5 Members must not disclose information given to them in confidence.

Objectivity

- 4.6 When making decisions on behalf of the Council, including awarding contracts or making appointments, Members must do so on merit.
- 4.7 Members must have regard to any relevant advice provided to them by the Clerk to the Council and (where a separate appointment is made) to the Responsible Financial Officer.

Accountability

- 4.8 Members must act in accordance with their legal obligations, including the following Acts of Parliament that confer special obligations on elected councillors:

Local Government Act 1972
Employment Rights Act 1996
Data Protection Act 1998
Freedom of Information Act 2000
Bribery Act 2010
Equality Act 2010
Localism Act 2011

- 4.9 Members must act in accordance with the Council's policies and reasonable requirements, including any protocols and codes of practice that may apply.

Openness

- 4.10 Members must give reasons for any decisions taken on behalf of the Council in accordance with any statutory requirements and the Council's Standing Orders.
- 4.11 Members must not prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

Honesty

- 4.12 Members must declare any disclosable (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) interests or conflicts of interest that may arise in respect of their responsibilities as a Member of the Council.
- 4.13 Members must at all times ensure that their claims for expenses, allowances, and their use of facilities and services provided by the Council are strictly in accordance with the rules laid down on these matters.

Leadership

- 4.14 Members must set an example by their behaviour and shall act in a way that enhances public trust and confidence in the integrity of the Council and its Members.
- 4.15 Members must show respect and courtesy to others.
- 4.16 Members should value the Council's officers and work alongside them to achieve the Council's objectives. Members must on no account behave in a manner that might constitute bullying.

5.0 Register of Interests

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer of Central Bedfordshire Council maintains a register of interests of Members and co-opted members of the Council.
- 5.2 The Council has determined what interests Members are required to enter in the register of interests, including those disclosable pecuniary interests prescribed by regulations. These disclosable interests are listed in Appendices A and B.
- 5.3 Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests that should be recorded in the Council's register of interests.
- 5.4 Within 28 days of becoming a councillor, all Members must submit to the Monitoring Officer a list of their disclosable interests and must notify the Monitoring Officer of any changes as and when they arise.

6.0 Meetings, Declarations and Dispensations

- 6.1 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A, the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter.
- 6.2 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B, the member shall not vote on the matter. He/she may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.
- 6.3 A member need only declare what his/her interest is if it is not already entered in the Members' register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it. If it is a sensitive interest which has not already been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer, the member shall disclose he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.
- 6.4 Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to the financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate (other than an interest of a person in Appendix A), the member shall disclose the nature of the interest and not vote on the matter.
- 6.5 In certain circumstances, members may be granted a dispensation to speak or vote on a matter which would otherwise be prohibited because they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. The Town Council's adopted Dispensations Procedure must be followed.

7.0 Complaints

- 7.1 Complaints regarding a breach of the code of conduct by a councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights will be investigated by the Monitoring Officer of the local authority.
- 7.2 Upon notification by the local authority that it is dealing with a complaint concerning a breach of the Council's code of conduct, the Proper Officer shall report this to Council.
- 7.3 Upon notification by the local authority that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take.

APPENDIX A:

Interests defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011 and described in the table below:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Description</i>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain by the member or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made to the member for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a member, or towards his/her election expenses, during the 12 month period ending on either: a) within 28 days of this Code being adopted by the Council or b) within 28 days of the member's election or the co-opted member's appointment, whichever is the later.
	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 made between the member or between his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a body in which such a person is a partner in a firm, a director of an incorporated body or holds the beneficial interest in securities*) and the Council -
	(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 held by the member or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partner which is within the area of the Council. "Land" excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the member or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.

Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) held by the member or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners 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 Council; and
	(b) the tenant is a body in which the member, or his/her spouse or civil partner/the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest held by the member or by his/her spouse or civil partner or by the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners 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 Council; 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.

* "Securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

APPENDIX B:

An interest which relates to or is likely to affect:

- (i) any body of which the member is in a position of general control or management and to which he/she is appointed or nominated by the Council;
- (ii) any body –
 - a. exercising functions of a public nature;
 - b. directed to charitable purposes; or
 - c. one of whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

of which the member of the Council is a member or in a position of general control or management;

- (iii) any gifts or hospitality worth more than an estimated value of £50 which the member has received by virtue of his or her office

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