

## Code of conduct

District Councillors are subject to the code of conduct adopted by the District Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Parish and Town Councils have adopted their own Codes. These Codes govern the behaviour of councillors when carrying out official duties or acting in the role of a councillor. The District's code forms part of our Constitution. We fully endorse the Code of Conduct and the high standards of behaviour it encourages.

The Code has to include the 7 Nolan principles:-

**SELFLESSNESS:** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

**INTEGRITY:** Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

**OBJECTIVITY:** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.


**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

**OPENNESS:** Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

**HONESTY:** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

**LEADERSHIP:** Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

The Code of Conduct and the General Principles provide a basis for members to conduct themselves properly when acting in their official capacity. The Code of Conduct can be found in the Constitution through the following **link**

If you have a complaint or a concern about the conduct of one of our District councillors or a parish or town councillor and you think they may have breached this code, you may be able to make a complaint to our Standards Committee. This should be done in writing on a  **new form** and sent to the Monitoring Officer, Bolsover District Council, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, Derbyshire S44 6NF.

Your complaint will be considered as described **link**

The Localism Act 2011 and the code adopted by the District Council on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012 require Councillors to disclose Disclosable and Other Interests in a Register (**link**) and in appropriate circumstances at meetings. Failures to follow these rules may result in a breach of the code of conduct or in very serious cases, a criminal prosecution.

To discuss your concerns, please contact Sarah Sternberg, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer 01246 242414, email [sarah.sternberg@bolsover.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.sternberg@bolsover.gov.uk) or Alan Turner, the Deputy Monitoring Officer 01246 242418 [alan.turner@bolsover.gov.uk](mailto:alan.turner@bolsover.gov.uk) Other members of our Legal Services may be able to help in the absence of both the Monitoring Officer and the Deputy Monitoring Officer.