

Appendix 1: Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members (Extract)

PART 4A: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL

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

1. I will represent the 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 our residents and maintain public confidence in the Council:
 - 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 am accountable for my decisions and actions to the public and must 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 Coventry City Council, I will act in accordance with the principles in paragraph 2 and, in particular, I will
 - (a) Champion the needs of residents - 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 City of Coventry 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 this Authority.

(e) Listen to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, take all relevant information into consideration, 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 making the City Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible to ensure residents understand the reasoning behind those decisions and are informed when holding me and other Members to account but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it.

(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) 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.

(j) Always treat people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside.

(k) 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.

(l) Not disclose information given to me in confidence by anyone or information acquired by me, which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, without express authority and/or unless the law requires it.