

Middlesbrough Town Deal Board CODE OF CONDUCT

Declaring interests

Whenever members are in a meeting and a matter is being considered that relates to their personal, non-pecuniary interest then they must declare the interest to the meeting.

Whenever members are in a meeting and have a disclosable pecuniary interest that is not already registered, they must disclose these.

Once a non pecuniary interest has been declared, the member can fully participate in the meeting. However, if the member declares a pecuniary interest then they must not take any further part in the debate and must not vote.

Predetermination

When making a decision, members must consider the matter with an open mind and on the facts before the meeting at which the decision is to be taken.

However members 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.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code requires that all members:

- Must not conduct themselves in a manner which is contrary to the Town Deal Board's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members;
- Must not disclose any information given to them in confidence, or prevent anyone from getting information to which they are entitled by law;

THE TOWN DEAL BOARD WILL OPERATE WITHIN THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE



The Principles of Public Life are contained in the Localism Act, and the conduct of members must be consistent with these Principles, which are as follows:

1. **Selflessness:** Members 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.
2. **Integrity:** Members 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.
3. **Objectivity:** In carrying out Town Deal Board business, including awarding funding or contracts, members should make choices on merit.
4. **Accountability:** Members are accountable for their decisions and the Town Deal Board is subject to public scrutiny and the Freedom of Information Act.
5. **Openness:** Members 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.
6. **Honesty:** Members have a duty to declare any private interest relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
7. **Leadership:** Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

Pecuniary Interests

Pecuniary interests include the following:

- Any employment or vocation carried out for profit or gain;
- Any sponsorship or financial benefit in respect of expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as a member;
- Beneficial interests in land within the Council's area of the relevant authority, and any licence to occupy land in the Council's area;
- Tenancies where the Council is the landlord and the tenant is a body in which the member has a beneficial interest;
- Beneficial interests in securities of bodies that have a place of business in the Council's area, and set limits (£25,000 or share capital of more than 1%) are exceeded.

