



## Kimberley Town Council

### Code of Conduct

**Adopted by Full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 TC/22/285 from Broxtowe Borough Council's Member Code of Conduct**

**Reviewed by Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 TC/24/705**

As a member or co-opted member of Kimberley Town Council (the "Council") I have a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with our staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

In accordance with the Localism Act provisions, when acting in this capacity I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles which aim to achieve best value for our residents and maintain public confidence in this authority:

- **Having regard to the principles of – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership**
- Championing the needs of residents – the whole community and in a special way my constituents, including those who did not vote for me, and putting their interests first
- **Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially**
- Not allowing other pressures to deter me from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the Council's area or the good governance of the authority in a proper manner
- Never improperly conferring an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for myself, my family, a friend or close associate or place myself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence me in the performance of official duties
- When carrying out my public duties making all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit, exercising independent judgement and not compromising 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
- **Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit**
- **Being accountable for my decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by local residents**
- Contributing to making this authority's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible and being prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions. Assisting residents to understand the reasoning behind those decisions and to be informed when holding me and other members to account, but having due regard to the need to restrict access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires.
- **Declaring any private interests, as required by this Code of Conduct, that relate to my public duties and taking steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest,**

**including registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out below**

- When using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the authority, I will ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and I will have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986
- Behaving in accordance with all the Council's legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within this authority's policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the authority's resources
- Valuing my colleagues and staff and engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect between us that is essential to good local government
- Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside
- Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community with other organisations as well as within this authority
- Co-operating fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to office
- Promoting and supporting high standards of conduct when serving in my public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and by example.

**Non-pecuniary interests**

- A non-pecuniary interest is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined above) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon my judgement of the public interest

**Action to be taken**

- If I am present at a meeting of the council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and I have a non-pecuniary interest relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting, I must:
- Declare the nature and extent of my interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature.
- I may stay, speak, vote and take a full part in the meeting.

**THE CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY**

This code applies to all local authorities in England specified in section 6 of the Local Government Act 1986 and to other authorities in England which have that provision applied to them by other legislation

- Such communications should not include material other than information for the public about the business, services and amenities of the council or other local service providers.
- Local authorities should consider how any publicity they issue can contribute to the promotion of any duties applicable to them in relation to the elimination of discrimination, the advancement of equality and the fostering of good relations.
- If views expressed by or attributed to individual councillors do not reflect the views of the local authority itself, such publicity should make this fact clear.
- Where local authority publicity addresses matters of political controversy it should seek to present the different positions in relation to the issue in question in a fair manner.
- Any publicity describing the council's policies and aims should be as objective as possible, concentrating on the facts or explanation or both. Local authorities should not use public funds to mount publicity campaigns whose primary purpose is to persuade the public to hold a particular view on a question of policy.