

**PART 8 – CODES AND PROTOCOLS  
(SECTION 1 - THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE  
MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT)**

**Part 8 is set out in eight sections as follows:**

- SECTION 1** – The Principles behind the Members' Code of Conduct
- SECTION 2** – Members' Code of Conduct
- SECTION 3** – Member/Officer Relations
- SECTION 4** – Preparatory Meetings of the Cabinet
- SECTION 5** – Call-in of Prosecutions
- SECTION 6** – Planning Local Code of Conduct for Members and Officers
- SECTION 7** – Petitions
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Arun District Council (the authority) has adopted this Code of Conduct in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members and co-opted members whenever they are acting in their capacity as a member of the authority. The Code was originally introduced on 1 July 2012 and was updated on 8 November 2017.
- 1.2 As an elected or co-opted member of Arun District Council, councillors have a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with the Council's staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

**2. PRINCIPLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 2.1 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 provisions, when acting in this capacity a councillor is committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for residents and maintain public confidence in this authority. The following are the statutory principles of the Members' Code of Conduct:
1. **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.
  2. **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.
  3. **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.
  4. **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.
  5. **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.

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6. 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.
7. LEADERSHIP: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.