

Dudley Town Board

Code of Conduct – *draft subject to Board approval on 10th May 2024*

Version	Date drafted & Author	Approved	Date for review/revision
V1	25.3.2024 EA		30.4.2025

1. Introduction

- This Code of Conduct relates to the activity of the Dudley Town Board and applies to all members of the Board and any sub-boards / committees.

All members of the Board, and any sub-boards / committees, are considered to agree to this Code of Conduct on accepting a seat on the Board and make their explicit commitment to the highest standards of conduct in dealing with the business of the Town Board.

3. Conduct of Board Business

All business of the Dudley Town Board will be conducted in accordance with The Seven Principles of Public Life, as defined by the Committee for Standards in Public Life. They are:

- Selflessness*: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
- Integrity*: Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
- Objectivity*: Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- Accountability*: Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
- Openness*: Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so.
- Honesty*: Holders of public office should be truthful.
- Leadership*: Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

4. Conduct of Board members

Members of the Board commit to:

- Supporting and promoting the purpose, objectives and roles of the Town Fund and Longer Term Plan for Towns (LTPfT) and promote the priorities of the Board within their community.
- Actively seeking and identifying all appropriate opportunities for the Board to engage with communities, hear their voice and influence, and empower their role in delivery
- Prioritise the community voice, consulting others within their range of influence and contacts, in order to gain a range of views to inform discussion and help delivery.
- Contributing their individual knowledge and expertise towards the development and delivery of a successful the Investment Plan.
- Respect, listen to and seek to work constructively with all Board members, secretariat and officers in the best interests of the Board and the Investment Plan
- Actively support equality, diversity and inclusion in the work of the Board and its engagement with communities
- Not knowingly support projects which would negatively impact on the environment

- h. Resist any temptation or outside pressure to use the position of Board Member to benefit themselves, their business interests, or other individuals or agencies.
- i. To follow the council policy on gifts and hospitality.
- j. Avoid as far as it possible, situations whereby there is a conflict (actual or potential) between their personal interests and those of the Board.
- k. Acknowledge that differences of opinion may arise in discussion but once a decision has been made by the Board to support the decision.
- l. Base their views on matters before the Board on an honest assessment of the available facts and representative engagement results, unbiased by partisan or representative views.
- m. Engender a high challenge – high support environment, acting as a critical friend and providing both challenge and support throughout the process
- n. Understand that an individual member does not have the right to make statements or express opinions on behalf of the Dudley Town Board unless specifically authorised to do so.
- o. Respect the confidentiality of items of business which the Board decides should remain confidential.
- p. Honour the obligation on all members not to reveal to third parties the views expressed at meetings.
- q. Have regard to the need to promote public accountability for the actions and performance of the Board.
- r. Give priority, as far as practicable, to attendance at Board meetings and its committees or groups