

THE SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

(adopted on 6 September 2012, under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011)

You are a member or co-opted member of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council and hence you shall have regard to the following principles – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The principles were first established by the Nolan Committee and are detailed in the guidelines for members.

Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council -

You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.

You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties. You should have regard to the guidance in the Town Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Policies and Procedures on Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality.

When carrying out your public duties, you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit. You will find guidance in the Town Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.

You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of the Town Council and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions. You should have regard to the guidance in the Town Council’s Standing Orders on how to deal with confidential business.

Failure to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may be a criminal offence and you should also declare any Prejudicial Interest that relates to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest. You should register and declare your interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out by the Town Council, including Standing Order 44.

You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Council, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986 and guidance within the Town Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example. You should have regard to the Town Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Policies and Procedures regarding the conduct between officers and members and the conduct when serving on outside bodies.

Councillor	Signed.....	Date.....
------------------	-------------	-----------