

Meir North Pride in Place Board

Code of Conduct for Board Members

1. Introduction

Neighbourhood Board members act in a voluntary capacity. While undertaking their role as Board members, they are covered by the Accountable Body's insurance arrangements (unless otherwise arranged) provided they act within the scope of the Board's functions and in accordance with the Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour and governance expected of all members of the **Meir North Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board** ("the Board").

It ensures full compliance with:

2. The Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)

- Selflessness – Act solely in the public interest.
- Integrity – Avoid undue influence and declare all interests and relationships.
- Objectivity – Make decisions impartially and without bias.
- Accountability – Be answerable for decisions and accept scrutiny.
- Openness – Act transparently unless legally restricted.
- Honesty – Be truthful in all actions.
- Leadership – Exemplify and uphold these principles at all times.

3. Conduct Requirements for Board Members

- Attend at least 70% of Board meetings annually; three consecutive absences will result in review of membership.
- Act only in public interest and avoid personal benefits.
- Avoid obligations that may influence duties.
- Make decisions such as appointments and recommendations on merit.
- Cooperate fully with scrutiny.
- Be transparent about decisions and prepared to give reasons.
- Declare personal, financial, or non-financial interests.
- Treat all individuals and stakeholders with respect.
- Use resources appropriately and lawfully.
- Comply with all legal obligations and funding requirements.
- Base decisions on evidence and take professional advice into account.
- Promote high standards of conduct through leadership.

4. Registering and Declaring Interests

Members must register financial and non-financial interests within 28 days of appointment. Conflicts must be declared immediately and reported within 28 days. Members must not participate or vote where a conflict exists unless a dispensation is granted.

5. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

Board Members must disclose DPIs (a money or business connection that must be declared and recorded) related to employment, sponsorship, contracts, land interests, licenses, corporate tenancies, voluntary positions and securities held within the Stoke-on-Trent City Council area.

6. Disclosure of Interests at Meetings

Members must disclose DPIs at meetings, refrain from discussion or voting on related matters, and notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days if not previously registered.

7. Dispensations

The Board may grant dispensations (official permissions that allow members with a conflict of interest to participate in discussions or vote on a specific matter where they would otherwise be prohibited) in circumstances where participation is necessary for business continuity, fairness, or public interest. Dispensations may last up to four years.

8. Commitment to High Standards

By joining the Meir North Pride in Place Board, members commit to public accountability, ethical leadership, transparency, community-centered decision-making, and upholding the reputation of the Pride in Place Programme.

Failure to abide by this Code of Conduct will result in a review of Board membership by the Chair and removal where appropriate in line with the complaints procedure detailed in the Terms of Reference.

Signature

I, _____,
agree to abide by the **Meir North Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Code of Conduct**.

Signed: _____

Date: _____