

Code of Conduct for Ward Planning Panel Members

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1. Background

1.1 -Planning panels are made up of ~~residents~~resident volunteers appointed at Ward Committee meetings who come together to discuss and respond to local planning applications. Planning Panels operate in non parished areas of the city.

1.2 Planning panel representations do not have a special status in the planning system. ~~They are~~Their comments and feedback is treated in the same way as any other representations from members of the public. They receive no additional information or authority over the planning system than other members of the public. Nevertheless because the Panels have been established through the City Council there is a particular expectation that Panels will operate in accordance with high ethical standards. This Code aims to help Planning Panels to do so and is based on the Nolan principles . Members of Planning Panels should follow this code whenever they are acting in that capacity.

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2. Code of Conduct

2.1 Selflessness

Representations put forwards by Planning Panels should be made in the interests of the community living in the Ward and not for any personal motive.

2.2 Integrity

Planning Panel Members must not involve themselves in applications which affect them personally. They should withdraw from the consideration of any application made by themselves, a relative, a friend or other close associate or their employer.

They should not take part in the consideration of any other application which might affect them more than other people in the Ward such as application by a near neighbour.

In cases of doubt they should declare their interest and seek the opinion of other Members as to whether they can properly participate.

2.3 Objectivity

Planning panel Members must make their representations fairly and on merit. They must act without discrimination and bias.

2.4 Accountability

Planning panel Members are accountable to the Ward Committee for their work and must be prepared to respond to questions from the Ward Committee in relation to it.

2.5 Openness

Planning panel Members should be open as to the reasons for their representations and as to any personal interests they have in a particular application.

Planning panel Members should record their ownership or occupation of any land in the area covered by the Panel on a register ~~published on the Council's website.~~ This information should be held by the planning team for reference should an allegation arise.

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2.6 Honesty

Planning panel members should be truthful.

2.7 Leadership

Planning panels should work in a respectful way but Members should be prepared to challenge each other if they have reason to believe that any of the principles of this Code are being breached.

3. Private roles

- 3.1 Members of Planning Panels may respond to consultations on planning applications in their personal capacity and nothing in this code prevents that. However, when doing so, they must not hold themselves out as acting as a Planning Panel member.