

CO-OPTED PARISH COUNCILLORS

Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 the way that a council deals with complaints about the conduct of its elected councillors and town and parish councillors in its area changed. As part of that process, co-opted parish councillors will:

- be a current elected councillor of a Parish/Town/Community Council in the Borough of Milton Keynes;
- have a keen interest in standards in public life;
- be a people in whose integrity the public can have confidence;
- understand and comply with confidentiality requirements;
- have a demonstrable interest in local issues;
- have an awareness of the importance of ethical behaviours; and
- be a good communicator.

Each council adopted a Code of Conduct, consistent with what are known as the Nolan Principles, by which the conduct of their councillors will be judged. As part of that Code, councillors will also be required to complete a register of personal interests for publication and take steps to ensure that a conflict of interest does not arise between those personal interests and the public interest that they serve as a councillor, which will be supported in addition by a number criminal offences if they fail in those steps.

The Nolan Principles

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 in order 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 to 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 so doing.

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.