

PROPOSED NEW PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

The proposed new principles of public life, as recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, are as follows:-

1. Selflessness

Members should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity

Members 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.

3. Objectivity

Members must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Members are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Members 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.

6. Honesty

Members should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Members 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.