

Code of Conduct Policy: Lewisham Pension Board June 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 There are various legal requirements which need to be considered to make sure that sound governance principles are followed, including the Localism Act 2011 which requires councillors to comply with the code of conduct of their local authority and to disclose interests, and Nolan's 'Seven Principles of Public Life' which any holder of public office is expected to comply with.
- 1.2 The importance of following such requirements must be appreciated by Board members. Failure to follow applicable codes of conduct can impact on good governance in various ways; for example, such failure may result in a Pension Board acting improperly, may lead to a perception that the Pension Board has acted improperly, or may result in a challenge to the work carried out by the Board.

2. Code of Conduct Policy

- 2.1 As per the Terms of Reference and where relevant, Lewisham Pension Board adopts the existing Code of Conduct policy for Members set out by Lewisham Council and attached at Appendix 1 of this document. This arrangement should be reviewed regularly and any changes made where appropriate.

3. Seven Principles of Public Life

- 3.1 Members of the Lewisham Pension Board should have regard to the 'Seven Principles of Public Life', referred to as the 'Nolan Principles', which are:
 1. **Selflessness** - Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
 2. **Integrity** - Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
 3. **Objectivity** - In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
 4. **Accountability** - Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
 5. **Openness** - Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands it.

6. **Honesty** - Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
7. **Leadership** - Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

3.2 As members of a publicly-funded body involved in the discharge of public business, all members of a Pension Board should comply with these principles in the exercise of their functions. They require the highest standards of conduct.