



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

Warrington Borough Council Vision
“Growing a Strong Warrington”
Our strategic vision is for Residents, Businesses and the Council
with Partners to work together to make Warrington a place where
everyone can thrive

Ethical Framework

Warrington Borough Council, as a public organisation, is committed to ensuring the highest possible standards of ethics and governance in order to deliver our pledges:



Openness; inclusion; integrity; accountability; honesty; selflessness; leadership; and objectivity are fundamental principles by which the Council operates. By promoting how the organisation is embedding these values, this ethical framework helps to both inform and guide our actions.

Why do we need an Ethical Framework?

Our Ethical Framework supports the Council's governance framework which is set out in various documents including the Council's Constitution; Code of Corporate Governance; and Codes of Conduct. The Ethical Framework highlights our responsibilities and showcases some of what we are doing as an organisation to meet these, as well as demonstrating our accountability to our principles. It applies to all members and workforce, who are required to follow the principles. The framework also applies to our dealings with all our partners, suppliers, contractors, and third-party service providers.

Our Ethical Framework requires that all persons act with honesty and integrity, that all persons will declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest. Any transgressions from the policy will be reported and investigated and any required sanctions applied.

The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee will review the robustness of the Ethical Framework. The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council are required to sign off the Framework.

Our Ethical Framework is summarised below. It is focused around the Council's values and shows how we are applying these across the organisation.

Openness

We are committed to being open and honest in our actions and communications, taking decisions in a transparent way. All of the Council's major plans and strategies are published and available for download on the website/intranet. We have a Scrutiny Committee supported by robust evidence and data analysis. We have a whistleblowing procedure together with a separate schools' procedure; the procedure supports the Council in its obligations in respect of the Bribery Act 2010.

Inclusion

We are committed to ensuring that equality and diversity is at the heart of our organisation and responds to the needs of all our customers and communities. The Council includes consideration of Social Value in its procurement strategy. The Customer Strategy is central to ensuring our customers are at the heart of delivering our vision of 'Growing a Strong Warrington'. The Customer Complaints and Feedback Policy has been refreshed as part of the Customer Strategy.

Integrity

We ensure that members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated. We have a robust Constitution that sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, proportionate, transparent and accountable. The Constitution contains the Code of Conduct for staff and members. The Monitoring Officer's functions include maintenance of the Constitution, supporting the Standards Committee and ensuring lawfulness of decision making.

Accountability

We take responsibility for, and answer to our actions. We recognise and act upon the impact of our actions on others, and hold ourselves accountable to our stakeholders. We are committed to paying our suppliers on time. We have reshaped our procurement practices to better promote social value outcomes. Every contract that the Council enters into adheres to the Public Procurement Regulations and requires high standards of transparency and ethics.

Honesty

We expect that all members and workforce will act with honesty and integrity. We expect that all members and officers will declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest. Guidelines are in the process of being updated in light of the Council's increased commercial activity.

Selflessness

We expect that all members and the workforce act solely in terms of the public interest

Leadership

We ensure that members take the lead in establishing specific standard operating principles or values for the organisation and its staff and that they are communicated and understood.

Objectivity

We expect that decisions be taken impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. We demonstrate, communicate and embed the standard operating principles or values through the Council's policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively. The Council's Constitution and the record of decisions and supporting material are reviewed annually.

Signed:



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Councillor Fitzsimmons
Chair of the Audit and Corporate
Governance Committee

Date: 22.03.18

Signed:



.....
Councillor O'Neill
Leader of the Council

Date: 21.03.18

Signed:



.....
Matthew Cumberbatch
Monitoring Officer

Date: 22/03/18

Signed:



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Steven Broomhead
Chief Executive

Date: 24/3/18