

## **Code of Conduct for Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board Members**

1. This code of conduct applies in addition to the standard WECA code of conduct, and all provisions of the WECA code of conduct also apply to LEP Board Members.
2. You are a Board Member of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and hence you shall have regard to the following principles – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership in your conduct at all times.
3. Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a Board Member of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership:
  - You must act in a manner consistent with your LEP's equality and diversity strategy and treat your fellow Board Members, members of staff and others you come into contact with when working in their role with respect and courtesy at all times.
  - You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.
  - You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might be reasonably regarded to influence you in the performance of your official duties.
4. When carrying out your LEP duties you must make all choices, such as making appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, based on evidence.
  - You are accountable for your decisions and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your position. You must be as open as possible about both your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of the LEP. In addition, you should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.
  - You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, including membership of any Trade Union, political party or local authority that relates to your LEP duties. Furthermore, you must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest. This includes registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out in the section 'Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests'.
  - You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your LEP, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political or personal purposes (including party political purposes).
  - You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your LEP post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.
5. The LEP does not pay expenses to Board members for attendance at routine, scheduled meetings, but expenses will be paid in exceptional circumstances where

agreed in advance with the LEP Chief Executive that they shall represent the LEP on official LEP business. The LEP Chief Executive reserves the right to escalate any concerns to the LEP Board if necessary.

## 6. Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

- You must, within 28 days of taking office as a Board Member or co-opted, notify your LEP Chief Executive and Accountable Body's S151/S73 Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest<sup>1</sup>, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a spouse, or as if you were civil partners.
- In addition, you must, within 28 days of taking office, notify your LEP Chief Executive and Accountable Body's S151/ S73 Officer of any non-pecuniary interest<sup>1</sup> which your LEP has decided should be included in the register or which you consider should be included if you are to fulfil your duty to act in conformity with the Seven Principles of Public Life. These non-pecuniary interests will necessarily include your membership of any Trade Union.
- Board members should review their individual register of interest before each board meeting and decision making committee meeting. If an interest has not been entered onto the LEP's register, then the member must disclose the interest at any meeting of the LEP at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest'<sup>1</sup>.
- Following any disclosure of an interest not on the LEP register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the LEP Chief Executive and S151/S73 Officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.
- Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest. Additionally, you must observe the restrictions your LEP places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest as defined by your LEP.

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this guidance, we are using the definition of a pecuniary interest as set out in the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

<sup>2</sup> A Non-Pecuniary interest is any interest which is not listed in the Schedule to The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (No.1464).

<sup>3</sup> A 'sensitive interest' is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of an authority having an interest, and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority's monitoring officer, consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.