

Draft Response to the Review of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors

Question 1

Belfast City Council agrees that all public representatives in Northern Ireland should be held to the same level of ethics with regard to behaviour in public office and therefore supports the changes to the proposed Principles contained in the Councillors' Code, to bring them into line with those contained in the MLA Code.

Question 2

Belfast City Council supports the recommendation to make the current Principle of "Public Duty" an enforceable rule under the Councillors' Code.

Question 3

Belfast City Council agrees that all public representatives in Northern Ireland should be held to the same level of ethics with regard to behaviour in public office and therefore supports the changes to the Councillors' Code, to make the Principles aspirational rather than enforceable, in line with those contained in the MLA Code.

Question 4

Belfast City Council supports this recommendation in that it these rules relating to decision-making should apply to all decisions taken by Councillors in meetings or when reaching decisions regarding the business of the Council.

Question 5

Belfast City Council supports this recommendation in that it these rules relating to decision-making should only apply to quasi-judicial decisions, decisions in making appointments and decisions on awarding contracts. The Council believes that the proposed changes will assist Councillors in being clear when the more onerous rules regarding lobbying or advocating for a certain position should apply.