



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Partnership Behaviour Protocol

1. General

- 1.1 This Partnership Behaviour Protocol was adopted by council resolution on 26th November 2010.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to high standards of ethical behaviour. It recognises that other public bodies, the private sector and voluntary sector play a significant part in delivering in partnership a range of council services, and the Council seek to establish good governance arrangements when working together with its partners to work more effectively and to manage risk.
- 1.3 Partners involved in local authority decision making who are not members of the authority are not subject to the same rules governing their behaviour as elected to co-opted members on the same bodies.
- 1.4 Accordingly, the council has introduced this Partnership Behaviour Protocol to set the values and standards of behaviour expected of those working in its partnerships.

2. Achieve Intended Outcomes

- 2.1 Our proprieties are evidence based and our decision making is transparent.
- 2.2 We will:
 - Share resources to achieve joint outcomes
 - Monitor how well we have used our resources
 - Actively encourage ideas and innovation
 - Ensure that decision making is transparent
 - Be committed to continuous improvement
 - Ensure that claims of improved performance are based on clear evidence
 - Establish accountability both across the partnership (horizontally) and within each organisation (vertically)

3. Public Interest

- 3.1 We will act in the interest of the public and demonstrate value.
- 3.2 We will:
 - Focus on long term as well as short term issues
 - Act in the interests of the public good over individual interests
 - Demonstrate to the community how we are achieving publicly valued outcomes
 - Agree a protocol for the handling of complaints that relates to our joint work.

4. Building Partners Capacity

4.1 We build capacity in our partnership.

4.2 We will:

- Be committed to developing individual partners' skills to achieve our aims
- Encourage partners to be confident working outside of their organisational culture
- Be open to partners' suggestions and help

5. Value and Respect Each Other

We respect and value everyone's contribution

5.1 We will:

- Ensure that all partners contribute appropriately and openly
- Acknowledge the capabilities of all members
- Recognise and embrace the role of voluntary and community sector partners
- Avoid dominance by one or two individuals
- Respect each other's roles and needs
- Actively encourage the participation of all partnership members
- Build effective working relationships with each other
- Recognise the value of all partners' contributions

6. Act Ethically

6.1 We act ethically. We are open and objective and encourage constructive challenge.

6.2 We will:

- Agree a mechanism for whistle-blowing and dealing with complaints
- Ensure whistleblowers are supported
- Actively promote a 'no blame' culture
- Support partners to both understand and constructively challenge any poor behaviour
- Use appropriate, unambiguous and simple language
- Agree how we will achieve democratic accountability
- Ensure that our dialogue is open and transparent
- Declare conflicts of interest and address them
- Make sure that the purpose of all meetings is made clear
- Be honest and objective.

7. Aligning Strategies and Networks

7.1 We harness our collective efforts through joint planning, delivery and governance arrangements.

7.2 We will:

- Ensure that partners can influence the decision making of member organisations
- Allow sufficient time and capacity to be given to understand an issue and to reflect on its impact
- Make sure that actions taken by the partnership are clear, time-limited and task orientated.
- Encourage all partners to actively shape the strategy
- Ensure that agreed actions are carried out

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Responsible Committee	Full Town Council
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