



Birmingham
Community Matters



Birmingham Community Matters



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Birmingham Community Matters' Governance Principles

Date of agreement: 6 March 2017

Date for review: March 2020

1. Introduction

Corporate Governance is concerned with the practices and procedures that the organisation follows in order to achieve its specific goals. The Board of Trustees of Birmingham Community Matters (BCM) recognises that BCM, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, should uphold the highest standards of corporate governance. The Board have therefore developed this policy to guide the Board, its Sub-Committees, Working Parties, individual board members, staff and volunteers in their work.

2. Principles for Birmingham Community Matters and staff

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) has set out *seven principles of public life* which it believes should apply to all in public service. BCM's Board of Trustees believes these principles represent the standards of behaviour that they would expect from individual board members, staff and volunteers and therefore expect them to be followed in all BCM activities. The seven principles are set out below: -

- **Selflessness**

BCM's trustees, staff and volunteers should take decisions solely in terms of the interests of BCM and its users. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

- **Integrity**

BCM's trustees, staff and volunteers should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

- **Objectivity**

In carrying out BCM's business, including electing officers, recruiting staff, awarding or receiving contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, BCM's trustees, staff and volunteers should make choices on merit.

- **Accountability**

BCM's trustees, staff and volunteers are accountable for their decisions and actions to BCM and its users. They must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

- **Openness**

BCM's trustees, staff and volunteers 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 interests of BCM and the confidentiality of its users clearly demands.

- **Honesty**

BCM's trustees, staff and volunteers have a duty to declare any conflicts of interest relating to their role within BCM and to take steps to resolve any such conflicts of interest arising in a way which protects the wider public interest.

- **Leadership**

BCM's trustees, staff and volunteers should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.