



# Ethical Fundraising and Partnerships Policy

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To be reviewed by	Policy & Resources Committee

## **Newton Abbot Town Council - Ethical Fundraising Policy**

1. The Town Council recognises its responsibility to its stakeholders and participants to consider the ethical issues that may arise in working with or accepting funding from an organisation/individual and the associated risks.
2. In applying this policy, the Town Council will have regard to relevant legislation and recognised standards of public conduct, including:
  - The Bribery Act 2010
  - The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
  - Relevant Money Laundering Regulations
  - The Nolan Principles of Public Life
  - The Charities Act 2011, where applicable to Museum activities and charitable fundraising.
3. Therefore, the Town Council seeks, so far as is practical and within the requirements of UK law, to:
  - Develop initiatives that do not compromise the independent status of the Town Council; it will establish the principles of its activities first, based on the needs of the beneficiaries and independently of any funding opportunities.
  - Ensure that the activities of organisations and individuals it works with are consistent with the Town Council's values.
4. The Town Council will not accept any funding from companies directly involved in activities that are contrary to its aims and values.
5. The Town Council will accept funding from statutory bodies. It recognises that, in accepting funding from statutory bodies, it must consider the policy implications and obligations that might be tied to it and ensure that these do not contravene the aims of the Town Council.
6. The Town Council can seek to raise funds from a series of trusts and foundations but recognises that they may not always align with the Town Council's ethical values. The Town Council therefore does not accept money from any trust or foundation if it is a requirement of grant receipt to advertise any company or organisation whose activities run contrary to its aims.
7. In order to further inform the Town Council's decision as to whether to accept funding or enter any kind of partnership, it commits to undertaking due diligence background research into the organisation/individual in question, which would include considerations such as:
  - a) Is the organisation part of a larger group?
  - b) What are its motives for giving?

- c) Is it financially sound?
  - d) Are there any reputational, legal, financial or safeguarding concerns associated with the organisation or individual?
8. The Town Council will undertake proportionate due diligence checks on significant donations and partnerships to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, including the Bribery Act 2010, Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, and associated anti-money laundering requirements.
  9. The Town Council will consider carefully any obligations that are included within a funding gift – in the case of individuals or companies this could include publicity or naming rights to some part of the programme. The Town Council will ensure that it undertakes a thorough background check into each individual or organisation to ensure that there is nothing within their activities, whether current, past or proposed, that would contravene its aims or harm its beneficiaries or reputation.
  10. The Town Council will maintain accountability and open and honest relationships with all its partners, by regularly monitoring and evaluating its work.

It is impossible to produce an exhaustive list of the areas that the Town Council would consider to be contrary to its aims. However, organisations that are likely to be seen as working against the Town Council aims or where an association may carry reputational risk, will be carefully considered.

This may include, but is not limited to:

- organisations promoting hate or discrimination
- extremist or conspiracy groups
- organisations subject to criminal investigation
- companies whose activities conflict with council values
- or organisations whose conduct may bring the Council into disrepute

The Town Council may decline funding, partnerships, sponsorship, promotional activity or product placement opportunities where it reasonably considers that association with an organisation may:

- conflict with the Council's aims, values or duties;
- undermine public confidence in the Council;
- present reputational risk;
- adversely affect community cohesion, public welfare or public safety; or
- bring the Town Council into disrepute.

The examples above are illustrative only, and each case will be considered on its individual merits.

11. Consistent with its principles, the Town Council will not accept funds in circumstances when:

- a) The donation is made anonymously (other than small donations for example given by an individual attending the Town Council, Museum or Newton’s Place on a visit), through an intermediary who is not prepared to identify the donor to anyone at the Museum or Town Council;
- b) The donor has acted, or is believed to have acted, illegally in the acquisition of funds, for example when funds are tainted through being the proceeds of criminal conduct; or,
- c) When acceptance of the funds would, in the judgment of Newton Abbot Town Council, significantly damage its effective operation, and in particular the Museum in delivering its mission for example, where such acceptance would:
  - 1. Harm the Council’s or Museum’s relationship with other benefactors, partners, visitors or stakeholders;
  - 2. Create unacceptable conflicts of interest;
  - 3. Materially damage the Council’s or the Museum’s reputation; or,
  - 4. Detrimentially affect the ability of the Council or the Museum to fulfil its mission in any other way than those mentioned above.

Date.....

Signed..... Mayor

Signed..... Town Clerk