



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Overview**

1. The All Party Parliamentary Urban Development Group Code of Conduct is an agreement between the officers, members, and the group's secretariat on the rules under which APPUDG operates and is administered. The document is signed by officers and representatives of secretariat bodies and a copy is made publicly available on the APPUDG website. The intention of the code is to supplement the statutory rules set by the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in order to ensure the group's activities are fully transparent and accountable.

### **Parliamentary**

2. The All Party Parliamentary Urban Development Group is an all party parliamentary subject group on the approved list of parliamentary groups, and abides by the rules and guidelines as laid down in the official booklet of all party groups compiled by the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.
3. The APPUDG exists in order to provide a forum for parliamentarians to address issues facing development and urban renewal in the UK.
4. The APPUDG is open to members of all parties from both Houses.
5. The group must have a minimum parliamentary membership of at least 20 'qualifying' members at any one time, 10 of which must be from the party of Government, and 10 from other parties. The parliamentary membership does not have an upper limit. No membership subscription fee is charged of parliamentary members of the group.
6. The agenda of APPUDG is set by the group's officers. Officers are elected annually at the AGM, which is open to all parliamentarians. Only parliamentarians have voting rights at the AGM.
7. The officers of APPUDG have executive authority over the group:
  - a. The chair holds overall responsibility for group.
  - b. Vice chairs support the chair in all official functions of the group.

### **Secretariat**

8. The APPUDG is administered by a full time secretariat, responsible for executing the programme and activities of the group agreed by the group's officers.
9. The secretariat and administrative services are provided by the British Property Federation and the Centre for Cities at IPPR.
  - a. The Centre for Cities is an independent research unit, based at the Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr). It is taking a fresh look at how UK cities work, with a strong focus on the economic drivers behind urban growth and change. The Centre has established a strong track record on urban policy issues such as economic performance, housing, leadership, enterprise, skills and investment.

- b. The BPF represents the UK 'property industry' and has a membership of over 400 companies that own, develop, and invest in property. The BPF promotes the industry's ability to deliver regeneration, sustainable development, environmental efficiency, and property's role as an asset class.
- 10. The British Property Federation funds and undertakes secretarial and other administrative services including the provision of a clerk for the group; project and event management; administering the group's website; and group mailings.
- 11. The Centre for Cities at IPPR conducts independent research for the group's inquiry sessions. All research is commissioned by the group's governing officers and costs for the research are met by the British Property Federation.

### **Research Programme**

- 12. The British Property Federation and Centre for Cities at IPPR do not set the group's agenda or programme of research. This is set by the group's officers.
- 13. The group's research programme reflects the priorities within the areas of regeneration, urban renewal and development, and the APPUDG is intended to provide a forum for Parliamentarians and means of disseminating impartial information to Parliament.
- 14. The officers take responsibility for ensuring that the group follows an impartial and non-partisan programme that considers all aspects of, and reflects the latest thinking within the areas of regeneration, development and urban renewal.

### **Other organisations**

- 15. Where possible and appropriate, other relevant organisations are invited to participate in group meetings and resources.
  - a. Internal to Westminster, APPUDG meetings and resources are open to other Parliamentary bodies such as committee and parliamentary staff, the House of Commons and Lords Libraries, and Parliamentary research staff.
  - b. External to Westminster, representatives from stakeholder group's, government departments, relevant charity and voluntary sector agencies, and commercial trading companies are invited to attend meetings at which their contribution is of relevance to the subject area.
    - i. As APPUDG is intended as a forum for open exchange and discussion amongst Parliamentarians, unless explicitly stated otherwise, meetings are understood to be held under Chatham House Rule.
    - ii. In order to comply with security and room booking regulations of the Palace of Westminster, attendance at meetings must be by invitation of the Group.

### **Endorsement**

- 16. This code of conduct is endorsed by the officers, members of the APPUDG, and the group's secretariat, representing an agreement on how the group operates and is administered.
- 17. Copies of the code are signed individually by the group's officers and members of secretariat bodies, and are available for inspection upon demand. A copy of the text of the code of governance is also made available on the group's website.
- 18. This is the public copy of the APPUDG Code of Conduct. Individual signed copies are held centrally by the group and are available for viewing upon request.