



Lingfield United Trust

Conflicts of Interest Policy

Conflicts of Interest Policy and Procedures

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy applies to the trustees and clerk of Lingfield United Trust (LUT) and sets out the guidelines and procedures for identifying, monitoring and managing actual and potential conflicts of interest.
- 1.2 The Charity Commission's guidance on conflicts of interest ("[Conflicts of interest: a guide for charity trustees \(CC29\)](#)") is available on its website.
- 1.3 In this policy references to:
 - (a) **conflicts** or **conflicts of interest** include actual and/or potential conflicts of interest and/or duty (or loyalty);
 - (b) **connected person** means:
 - (i) a child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, brother or sister of a trustee or clerk;
 - (ii) the spouse, unmarried partner or civil partner of a trustee or clerk of any person falling within paragraph (i) above;
 - (iii) any person who is in business partnership with a trustee, clerk or any person who is in a business partnership with any person falling within paragraphs (i) or (ii) above; and
 - (iv) any company, business, trust or organisation in which a trustee/clerk (or any other person connected to them) has an interest as a beneficiary or through ownership, control or influence; and

- (c) **benefit** includes any payment or material benefit (including property, loans, goods and services) other than reasonable out of pocket expenses.

1.4 LUT's Articles of Association, Section 6 Benefits and Conflicts, and Section 14 Interpretation refer to the charity's stance on Conflict of Interest and should be considered part of this policy.

2 Purpose of the policy

- 2.1 The directors of the Charity are its trustees. They therefore have a duty to act in the best interests of the Charity. They must not place themselves in a position where they have, or may have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts with their duties as a trustee and must not profit from their position as a trustee. These obligations derive from the general fiduciary duties owed by trustees of a charity and the Companies Act 2006, which sets out specific requirements in relation to conflicts of interest
- 2.2 Conflicts of interest can inhibit open discussions and may result in trustees taking irrelevant considerations into account or making decisions that are not in the Charity's best interests. They can also damage the reputation of the Charity if trustees are, or there is a perception they may be, influenced by personal interests or loyalties or there is a perception that they may be influenced.
- 2.3 The procedures in this policy will enable trustees to identify and manage conflicts of interest so that they can ensure that conflicts do not prevent them from making decisions in the best interest of the Charity. The policy will also help protect both the Charity and the trustees from any appearance of impropriety in cases where conflicts of interest arise.

3 Identifying conflicts of interest

- 3.1 A conflict of interest is any situation in which a trustee's direct or indirect interests could, or could be seen to, prevent them from making a decision only in the best interests of the Charity.
- 3.2 Conflicts of interest may arise:
 - (a) where a trustee or connected person stands to obtain a benefit from the Charity; or
 - (b) where a trustee has a duty of loyalty to a third party that conflicts with their duty to the Charity.

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3.3 When considering if they have a conflict of interest, a trustee must be aware of the following principles:

- (a) a conflict of interest exists if there is a possibility or perception that the trustee's personal interest could influence their decision-making, even if the trustee's decision-making is not in fact affected by the conflict; and
- (b) the interest that gives rise to a conflict may be direct or indirect. A conflict may therefore relate to the personal interests of a trustee or those of a connected person.

3.4 It is impossible to set out every situation which may result in a conflict, but common situations include:

- (a) selling, loaning or leasing Charity assets to a trustee or connected person;
- (b) the Charity acquiring, borrowing or leasing assets from a trustee or connected person;
- (c) paying a trustee or connected person for providing a service and/or goods to the Charity;
- (d) employing a connected person at the Charity;
- (e) offering accommodation as a resident to a trustee or connected person;
- (f) when a trustee or connected person owes a legal obligation or duty towards another person or organisation (for example, the body that has appointed them to be a trustee, or another organisation like their employer) that conflicts with the trustee's duty to the Charity;
- (g) when a trustee has a personal sense of loyalty to another organisation or person that conflicts with their loyalty to the Charity; and
- (h) when a trustee has religious or political views that could interfere with their ability to make decisions in the interest of the Charity.

4 Procedure for declaring interests and register of trustees' interests

- 4.1 All trustees have a personal responsibility to declare any interest that might reasonably be regarded as potentially giving rise to a conflict.
- 4.2 Before appointment a prospective trustee must be asked to declare any direct or indirect interests they have that may give rise to a conflict so that the

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trustees can consider whether it is appropriate to proceed with the appointment.

- 4.3 It is the responsibility of each trustee to declare any information which may be considered a "Conflict of Interest" to the clerk timely. And this information must be noted on a register.
- 4.4 It is for individual trustees to decide which matters to declare but, if in doubt, they should make a declaration.
- 4.5 The information provided by trustees will be processed in accordance with the principles for processing personal data set out in the data protection legislation. Data will be processed only for the purposes set out in this policy and not for any other purpose and will be stored securely at all times.
- 4.6 The register will be maintained by the clerk. Any amendments to the register will be circulated to the Board at the start of each trustee meeting.
- 4.7 The register will be used to record all gifts and hospitality.
- 4.8 The register will be available for inspection by any trustee.

5 Process for declaring conflicts

- 5.1 Should any conflicts arise they will be the first item on the agenda of each trustee meeting.
- 5.2 If a trustee considers that they have an actual or potential conflict, they must inform the clerk and chair as soon as possible and always before any discussion of the relevant matter and should always err on the side of transparency in deciding what to declare. The declaration must specify the nature and extent of any direct or indirect interest that gives rise to the conflict.
- 5.3 If a trustee is aware that another trustee has an actual or potential conflict that has not been declared, they must notify the clerk and chair.
- 5.4 All conflicts should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in which they were declared or, if not declared in a meeting, in the minutes of the next trustee meeting.

6 Procedure for dealing with conflicts

- 6.1 The way in which conflicts are dealt with will depend on the nature and extent of the conflict. The non-conflicted trustees must therefore:
 - (a) assess the nature and extent of the conflict;

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- (b) assess the risk or threat to decision-making by the trustees;
- (c) decide whether the conflict is serious (for example, the conflict is acute or extensive, will or may be seen to prevent the trustees from making decisions in the best interests of the Charity, relates to a significant decision or risks significantly damaging the Charity's reputation); and
- (d) decide what steps to take to handle the conflict.

6.2 When considering the conflict, trustees must take all relevant factors into account, make decisions only in the best interests of the Charity and always protect the Charity's reputation.

6.3 The conflicted trustee must not be present for any discussion or decision about the conflict and how to handle it and will not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting.

7 Authorised conflicts of interest

7.1 The trustee's duty to avoid a conflict of interest does not apply if, and to the extent that, the conflict of interest is authorised by any of the following:

- (a) an express provision in the Charity's governing document – cross reference Section 6 of the Articles of Association
- (b) a statutory provision (for example in the Charities Act 2011); or
- (c) the Charity Commission or the court.

7.2 In each case, the charity trustee must always follow any conditions that apply to the authorisation.

8 Procedures for managing conflicts

8.1 If the conflict arises owing to a financial transaction between the Charity and a trustee (or a connected person), or because a trustee (or a connected person) will or may obtain a benefit from the Charity:

- (a) any potential or proposed benefit must be authorised in advance (see section 7 above); and
- (b) the conflicted trustee must:
 - (i) withdraw from all discussions and decisions in relation to the matter; and
 - (ii) not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting.

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8.2 If the non-conflicted trustees decide that a conflict is serious, they must consider:

- (a) securing the conflicted trustee's resignation and/or appointing a new trustee who is not conflicted;
- (b) not pursuing the course of action that gives rise to the conflict or proceeding in a different way so that the conflict does not arise;
- (c) seeking professional advice about how to handle the conflict; and
- (d) asking the Charity Commission for guidance.

8.3 If a conflict is not serious, the non-conflicted trustees must decide what procedures and level of participation by the conflicted trustee are appropriate.

8.4 If the non-conflicted trustees decide that the conflict is low risk (in that it will not prevent the conflicted trustee from making decisions in the best interests of the Charity), they may agree that the conflicted trustee may continue to participate in discussions and the decision-making process providing it meets the criteria of the Articles of Association

8.5 The chair must inform the conflicted trustee of the non-conflicted trustees' decision about how to manage the conflict.

8.6 The minutes of the relevant meeting must include a record of the nature and extent of the conflict, an outline of the discussion and the actions taken to manage the conflict. The clerk must ensure that minutes or other documents relating to the item presenting a conflict are not made available to the conflicted trustee.

8.7 Where a trustee or a connected person receives an authorised payment or benefit from the Charity, this must be reported in the Charity's annual accounts.

9 Monitoring, enforcing and reviewing this policy

9.1 Any trustee who becomes aware of a breach of this policy must report it to the clerk and/or chair as soon as possible.

9.2 The trustees have implemented this policy to monitor and manage conflicts of interest. Any failure to comply with the terms of this policy will not, in itself, result in a decision of the trustees being invalidated or in any liability to the Charity's beneficiaries.

9.3 This policy must be reviewed annually by the trustees.

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This policy has been approved for issue by the board of trustees:

Signature <u>Gill Williams</u>	Signature <u>[Handwritten Signature]</u>
Name <u>Gill Williams</u>	Name <u>Richard Young</u>
Date <u>14th April 2026</u>	Date <u>14th April 2026</u>

Review date: April 2027

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Appendix

Charity Trustee Declaration of Interests form

As a trustee of Lingfield United Trust I have read the Charity's conflicts of interest policy and procedures (the **Policy**) and set out the interests of myself and any connected persons (as defined in the Policy).

Category	Please give details of any interest and whether it applies to you or, where appropriate, a connected person (as defined in the Policy)
Current employment and any previous employment in which you continue to have a financial interest.	
Any financial or other interest in a company, business or organisation	
Appointments (voluntary or otherwise) e.g. trusteeships, directorships, local authority membership, tribunals etc. (including the date of your appointment).	
Membership of any professional bodies, special interest groups or mutual support organisations.	
Gifts or hospitality offered by external bodies in the last 12 months in connection with your role as a trustee.	

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Any contractual relationship with the charity or its subsidiary.	
Any conflicts not covered by above.	

I consent to the information contained in this declaration being used for the purposes set out in the Policy and for no other purpose.

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this declaration is completed and accurate.

I undertake to:

- 1 review this declaration at least once every 12 months and also to update the declaration promptly should any material changes occur; and
- 2 declare promptly any conflicts that may arise in the future.

Signature:	<i>Gill Williams</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Name:	<i>Gill Williams</i>	<i>Richard Tong</i>
Date:	<i>14th April 2026</i>	<i>14th April 2026</i>