

Part 3: Registration and Disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

7. Obligations

- 7.1 You must, within 28 days of taking office as a Member or Co-opted Member of the Council, notify the Council's Monitoring Officer of any 'disclosable pecuniary interests' as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State (as set out at Part 2 of this Code), where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.
- 7.2 You must also, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new disclosable pecuniary interest, or change thereto, notify the Council's Monitoring Officer of such new or changed interest.
- 7.3 If you have disclosable pecuniary interest included on the Register of Members' Interests, you must disclose this interest at any meeting of the Council, its Committees or the Executive at which you are present and participating in the business. Such interest should be disclosed at the commencement of consideration of the business or when the interest becomes apparent. You do not need to disclose details of the interest itself.
- 7.4 If a disclosable pecuniary interest has not been entered onto the Council's Register of Interests, then you must also disclose the interest to any meeting of the Council, its Committees or the Executive at which you are present where you have such an interest in any matter being considered. Such interest should be disclosed at the commencement of consideration of the business or when the interest becomes apparent. You do not need to disclose details of the interest itself. Following disclosure of a disclosable pecuniary interest not on the Council's Register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of such interest within 28 days, beginning with the date of disclosure.
- 7.5 Unless a dispensation has been granted by the Council, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge of any function related to any matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest. You must as soon as it becomes apparent that you have such an interest (~~save for in circumstances set out at paragraph 7.6 below~~) withdraw from the chamber or room where the meeting considering the business is being held, and must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business. If acting as a single Executive member you may not take any further steps in relation to the matter other than for the purpose of arranging for the matter to be dealt with otherwise than by yourself.
- ~~7.6 Without prejudice to paragraph 7.5 above, where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the Council you may, notwithstanding such disclosable pecuniary interest attend such meeting for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to~~

~~such business provided members of the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.~~

Part 4: Registration of Gifts and Hospitality

8.1 You must, within 28 days of receipt, notify the Council's Monitoring Officer of any gift or hospitality you receive, if such gift or hospitality has an estimated value of at least £50.

Part 5: Registration and Disclosure of Personal Interests

- 9.1 Without prejudice to requirements contained at Part 3 of this Code in respect of the Registration and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests, you may in addition notify the Council's Monitoring Officer of any Personal Interests you consider it appropriate to be entered on the Register of Members' Interests.
- 9.2 You have a "personal interest" in an item of business where it relates to or is likely to affect any of the following bodies of which you are a member: a public or charitable body, any body to which you have been appointed by the authority, any political party, trade union or other body one of whose principal purposes is to influence public opinion or policy.
- 9.3 You also have a "personal interest" in an item of business where a decision in relation to it might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or person with whom you have a close association, more than other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the authority's area.
- 9.4 You shall disclose a "personal interest" at a meeting of the Council, its Committees or the Executive, where you consider that interest to be relevant to an item of business being considered at that meeting. The disclosure shall be made at the commencement of the meeting, or when the interest becomes apparent, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 9.5 Disclosure of a personal interest does not affect your ability to participate in discussion or vote on the relevant item, provided it is not also a disclosable pecuniary interest. If you consider, having taken advice in appropriate circumstances, you should not participate in the business being considered, you should leave the chamber or room where the business is being considered, after exercising any right to speak which a member of the public would have.

2.28.5 General Disturbance

2.28.6 In the event of general disturbance which in the opinion of the Mayor renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible, in addition to any other power vested in him/her, the Mayor may, without question put, adjourn the meeting of the Council for such period as he/she in his/her discretion considers expedient.

2.29 DISTURBANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

2.29.1 If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting the Mayor shall warn him/her/them. If he/she/they continue(s) the interruption, the Mayor shall order his/her/their removal from the Council Chamber. In the case of general disturbance in any part of the Chamber open to the public, the Mayor shall order that part to be cleared and/or the meeting to be adjourned.

2.30 DURATION OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

2.30.1 After a meeting has lasted three hours, the Mayor may direct that only unopposed or formal business shall be proceeded with and any remaining motions shall stand adjourned to a subsequent meeting.

2.31 INTERESTS OF MEMBERS IN CONTRACTS AND OTHER MATTERS

2.31.1 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Pecuniary Interests

2.31.2 If any member of the Council has any disclosable pecuniary interest or a pecuniary interest within the meaning of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members in any contract, proposed contract, or other financial matter, that member must:

(a) disclose the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members; and

~~(b) withdraw from the meeting while the contract, proposed contract, or other matter, is under consideration by the Council unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or can attend in accordance with paragraph 7.5 and/or 7.6 of the Code (i.e. making representations).~~

2.31.3 Non-pecuniary Interests

2.31.4 If any member of the Council has a non-pecuniary interest, within the meaning of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in any contract, proposed contract, or other matter, that member must disclose the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

2.31.5 General

2.31.6 Any interest under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members must be declared at or as near as possible to the start of a meeting.

2.31.7 Reference in this Standing Order to the Council shall include the Executive, Scrutiny Panels, a Committee, Sub-Committee of the Council.