



Langton Matravers Parish Council

Code of Conduct

Introduction

Pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council has adopted this Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members and co-opted members whenever they conduct the business of the Council including the business of the office to which they were elected or appointed or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.

This Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code, a 'co-opted member' is a person who is not a member of the Council but who is either a member of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a member of, and represents the Council on any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Council, and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

For the purposes of this Code, a 'meeting' is a meeting of the Council, any of its committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

For the purposes of this Code, and unless otherwise expressed, a reference to a member of the Council includes a co-opted member of the Council.

Member obligations

When a member of the Council acts, claims to act or gives the impression of acting as a representative of the Council, he/she has the following obligations.

1. He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful.
2. He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory.
3. He/she shall not seek to compromise the impartiality of any employee or anyone who works for the Council.
4. He/she shall not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.
5. He/she shall not bring their own role or the Council into disrepute.
6. He/she shall not seek to improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person. In addition, he/she shall not accept any gift or hospitality which could give rise to a reasonable suspicion of conferring such an advantage.
7. He/she shall use the resources of the Council in accordance with its requirements.

Registration of interests

Within 28 days of a member's election or a co-opted member's appointment (where that is later), he/she shall register all interests on Dorset Council's online "declaration of interest" system.

Upon the re-election of a member or the re-appointment of a co-opted member, he/she shall within 28 days re-register all interests on Dorset Council's online "declaration of interest" system.

A member shall register any change to interests or new interests as above within 28 days of becoming aware of it.

A member need only declare on the public register of interests the existence but not the details of any interest which the Monitoring Officer agrees is a 'sensitive interest'. A sensitive interest is one which, if disclosed on a public register, could lead the member or a person connected with the member to be subject to violence or intimidation.

Declaration of interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter. He/she only has to declare what his/her interest is if it is not already entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A which is a sensitive interest, the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter. If it is a sensitive interest which has not already been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer, the member shall disclose he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate, the member shall disclose the nature of the interest and withdraw from the meeting. He/she may speak on the matter before withdrawing only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. If it is a 'sensitive interest' the member shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.

Dispensations

On a written request made to the Council's proper officer, the Council may grant a member a dispensation to participate in a discussion and vote on a matter at a meeting even if he/she has an interest in Appendix A if the Council believes that the number of members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would impede the transaction of the business; or it is in the interests of the inhabitants in the Council's area to allow the member to take part or it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

Adopted by resolution of the Council, 12th July 2012

Reviewed and approved without change by resolution of the Council 11th May 2017

Reviewed and approved without change by resolution of the Council 12th May 2018

Revised and approved by resolution of the Council 9th September 2021

Revised and approved by resolution of the Council, 11th May 2023

Reviewed and approved without change by resolution of the Council, 13th June 2024

Reviewed and approved without change by resolution of the Council, 12th June 2025

Reviewed and approved without change by resolution of the Council, 14th May 2026

Appendix A

Declarable Interests

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Description</i>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made to the member during the 12 month period ending on the latest date referred to in paragraph 6 above for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a member, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the member or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the Council: (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the member or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the Council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the member's knowledge): (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the member, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where: (a) that body (to the member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Council; and (b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the member, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
Gift or Hospitality	Any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of £50 or more from a person or business who could reasonably be seen as being likely to make an application to the Council for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.
*Notes	<i>"director" includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.</i> <i>"securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services</i>

	<i>and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.</i>
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