

THE CODE OF CONDUCT – BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL (MEMBERS)

(Adopted by Blaby District Council on 17 July 2012)

PART 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS**1.- Introduction and Interpretation**

1.1 This Code applies to **you** as a Member of an authority.

1.2. You should read this Code.

1.3 It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of the Code.

1.4 In this Code, “meeting” means any meeting of:

(a) the authority;

(b) the executive of the authority;

(c) any of the authority’s or its Executive Committees, Sub-Committees, Joint Committees, joint Sub-Committees, or area Committees;

“Member” means any person being an elected or co-opted member of the Authority and any Independent Person appointed by the Authority to assist with the discharge of the Code of Conduct functions.

1.5 In relation to a Parish Council, references to an Authority’s Monitoring Officer and an Authority’s Standards Committee shall be read, respectively, as references to the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee of the District Council or Unitary County Council which has functions in relation to the Parish Council for which it is responsible under the Localism Act 2011.

1.6 To promote high standards of behaviour which are underpinned by the general principles of public life which should be borne in mind when interpreting the meaning of the Code.

2.- Scope

2.1 You must comply with this Code whenever you –

(a) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your Authority;

(b) conduct the business of your Authority (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed).

- 2.2 Where you act as a representative of Blaby District Council –
- (a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other Authority's Code of Conduct;
 - (b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with this Code of Conduct except in so far as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.
- 2.3 In addition to having effect in relation to conduct in your official capacity, the Code also has effect, at any other time, where that conduct constitutes a criminal offence for which you have been convicted.
- 2.4 Conduct to which this Code applies (whether that is conduct in your official capacity as mentioned in 2.3) includes a criminal offence for which you are convicted (including an offence you committed before the date you took office, but for which you are convicted after that date).

3.- Other Obligations

- 3.1 In addition to the above principles, you will –
- (a) strive to establish respectful and courteous relationships with everyone you come into contact with as Councillors. You will also respect the political impartiality and integrity of the Council's statutory officers and its other employees;
 - (b) follow the law in relation to policies of the Council and its legal obligations;
 - (c) not to disclose or use confidential information for any other purpose other than that provided by the law;
 - (d) use those particular Council resources provided for the undertaking of the Council duties in accordance with the Council's policies and not for any other purposes.

PART 2 – INTERESTS

4.- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- 4.1 Subject to Paragraph 7 (sensitive interests), you must within 28 days of:
- (a) this code being adopted; or
 - (b) your election or appointment (where that is later)
 - (c) Notify the Monitoring Officer of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where

such interest is

- (i) yours,
- (ii) your spouse's or civil partner's
- (iii) somebody with whom you are living as husband and wife or civil partners
- (iv) that of your family,
- (v) close associate.

and you are aware that that person has the interest.

- 4.2 You must within 28 days of becoming aware of any new Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or any change to any such interest, notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of that new interest.
- 4.3 You have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest if it is of a description specified in Regulations made by the Secretary of State and attached as an Appendix to this Code.
- 4.4 Where such an interest exists and has or has not been entered onto the authority's register, you must disclose the interest to any meeting of the authority at which you are present, where you have a Disclosable Interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest' or where no dispensation has been given.
- 4.5 Following any disclosure of an interest not on the authority's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.
- 4.6 Where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you must not remain in the meeting or participate in the discussions on the matter on which you hold that Interest, unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter.

5.- *Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests and Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*

- 5.1 Subject to Paragraph 7 (sensitive interests), you must within 28 days of:
 - (a) this code being adopted or
 - (b) your election or appointment (where that is later)
 - (c) notify the Monitoring Officer of any Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests through the Register of Interest Form.
- 5.2 You have a Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interest if it is of a description specified

in Regulations made by the Secretary of State

- 5.3 Where you have a Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interest you may remain in the meeting, speak and vote on the matter unless to do would compromise your impartiality obligations or any other obligations set out in this Code.
- 5.4 Where you have a Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you should declare that interest when the interest arises and you must not vote or participate in the discussions on the matter and will leave the room if required by Standing Orders on Council Procedure Rules.

PART 3 – REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

6 Registration of Members’ interests

- 6.1 Subject to paragraph 4.2 you must, within 28 days of –

- (a) this Code being adopted by or applied to your authority; or
- (b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later),

register in your authority’s register of Members’ interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- 6.2 Subject to paragraph 4.2, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any disclosable pecuniary interest or change to any personal interest, register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your authority’s Monitoring Officer.

7.- Sensitive information

- 7.1 A ‘sensitive interest’ is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of an authority having an interest, and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority’s monitoring officer, consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.