

## **CODE OF CONDUCT – DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

In the light of the adoption by the Council of a new Code of Member Conduct which revises the definition of interests to be registered and disclosed, it is important that when Members disclose interests at meetings such disclosures are precise and reflect the new definition. Apart from satisfying the requirements of the Code itself and the Council Procedure Rule relevant to this, it helps make things clear for everyone at the meeting whether it be fellow Members, Officers or the public.

In brief the three new categories of interest are as follows:

**Discloseable Pecuniary interests** – Disclose existence and nature of your or your spouse/partner’s interest - Member must withdraw from the room. You must also not seek improperly to influence a decision.

**Other Registrable Pecuniary interests** – Disclose existence and nature of your interest - Member cannot participate at meeting if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment in the public interest and must withdraw from the room.

**Registrable Non-pecuniary interests** – Disclose existence and nature of your interest - Member can participate fully at meeting.

The first category is the mandatory one, the second is very similar and calls for a similar judgement as applied to the old prejudicial interests.

The third requires registration of interests of a non-pecuniary nature (as set out in the Code) and parallels can be drawn between this and the former personal non-prejudicial interests.

### **WHEN DO YOU NEED TO DISCLOSE AN INTEREST?**

**You need to disclose an interest when**

- 1. You are present at a meeting of the Council or any committee or sub committee**
- 2. There is an item of business on the agenda in which you have an interest**

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**If it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Pecuniary Interest then:**

- 1. You must withdraw from the meeting room.**
- 2. You must not take part in the discussion of the item of business.**
- 3. You must not vote on the item of business.**

**If it is a Non-Pecuniary Interest then:**

- 1. You can remain, take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.**