

## **12. Members' Interests**

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

A member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting must, before the matter is discussed or when that interest becomes apparent:

- (a) disclose the interest
- (b) explain the nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration or when the interest becomes apparent; and unless they have been granted a dispensation
- (c) not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter at the meeting
- (d) withdraw from the meeting room whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered
- (e) not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business

Members can only stay to speak as a member of the public (where a member of the public is permitted to speak) if the Monitoring Officer has granted the member a dispensation to do so but must leave the room as soon as they have finished speaking as a member of the public.

### **Personal Interests**

A member shall disclose a Personal Interest at a meeting where they consider that interest to be relevant to an item of business 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.

Disclosure of a Personal Interest will only affect the ability of the member to participate in discussion or vote on the relevant item if it is also a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest OR if it is so close that it could give rise to actual or apparent impartiality, bias or pre-determination (e.g. the matter directly affects themselves, a close friend or a family member). In that case, the member should exclude themselves from the meeting.

The Chairman may request that a member declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or a close Personal Interest and, if appropriate, leave the meeting room, should they have reason to believe that the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct and/or this procedure rule are being breached.

Where a member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or close Personal Interest in a matter under discussion (unless a dispensation has been granted) chooses to participate in the discussion and vote, the chairman will refuse to count the 'vote' of the member concerned, as it will have been cast improperly and should not be considered to be a vote at all.

Where a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or a Personal Interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer as being a Sensitive Interest (one where 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), the Member need only disclose the existence of the interest but not its nature.