

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Members' Code of Conduct

Standards of Conduct

Members (including all voting co-opted members) of Wellington Town Council will at all times promote and maintain high standards of conduct when they are acting in that capacity. To do this they will:-

✓ Members should serve only the public interest and should treat everyone that they deal with equally and with respect.	Selflessness
✓ Members should not place themselves in a position where they either are or give the appearance that they are under any financial or other obligation to anyone that might seek to influence them in the performance of their duties as a Member. ✓ Members should only use the resources of the Authority in accordance with reasonable requirements set out for their use from time to time ✓ Members should declare their interests in accordance with the law and with the provisions of this Code of Conduct ✓ Members should declare gifts and hospitality that they receive in accordance with the Council's Rules on Gifts and Hospitality	Integrity
✓ Members should make decisions on merit and in the public interest, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.	Objectivity
✓ Members should be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and should co-operate fully with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular role or office.	Accountability
✓ Members should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions and should give reasons for their decisions and actions. They should not disclose information given to them which they can reasonably be expected to know was either exempt or confidential and is not to be disclosed to protect the wider public interest.	Openness
✓ Members have a duty to declare any private interests that relate to their duties as a Member and do whatever is necessary to resolve any such conflict in a way that protects the public interest	Honesty
✓ Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence	Leadership

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Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The Monitoring Officer of Telford & Wrekin Council will maintain a Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which can be found at *[insert link to Council web-site]* or viewed by appointment with the Monitoring Officer *[insert contact details]*

What	When	How	Impact on Meetings
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Within 28 days of election or re-election (if not already entered)	In writing to the Monitoring Officer detailing the existence and nature of the interest	Member cannot participate in or vote on the matter
Previously undeclared Disclosable Pecuniary Interest			
Outside a meeting	Within 28 days of the date of disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest at a meeting	In writing to the Monitoring Officer detailing the existence and nature of the interest	Member cannot participate in or vote on the matter
During a meeting	As soon as the Member is aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Verbally to the meeting detailing the existence and nature of the interest	Member cannot participate, participate further, vote or further vote on the matter
Sensitive Interests – ie where the Monitoring Officer agrees that the disclosure of the interest could lead the Member being subject to violence or intimidation	As above – depending upon the circumstances	As above but detailing the existence but not the nature of the interest	As above

Dispensations

Dispensations can be granted by the Monitoring Officer, if, after considering the relevant circumstances:-

1. The number of Members precluded from transacting the business is so great that it would impede the business of the Town Council or committee
2. The dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Wellington Town Council area
3. It is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation

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S.30(3) of the Localism Act 2011 confirms that disclosable pecuniary interests **relate to certain interests of a member or co-opted member or the interests of his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom he/she lives as if they were a spouse or civil partner.**

The Schedule to the 2012 Regulations sets out the prescribed disclosable pecuniary interests for the purpose of the 2011 Act and this is contained in the table below. References to members and members of authorities in the table refer to members and co-opted members of parish and town councils.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests may be amended from time to time by regulation but at 1st July 2012 they were:-

Employment, office, trade or profession	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a person in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of that person
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person(or body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority- (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 relevant authority
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the persons knowledge)- (a) The landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) The tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where- (a) That body (to the persons knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; 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 in any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class