

Members' Code of Conduct

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members should serve only the public interest and should treat everyone that they deal with equally and with respect. <i>Link to co-operative value of Fairness and Respect</i> 	<p>Selflessness</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends. 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 and resolve 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. 	<p>Integrity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members should act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. <i>Link to co-operative value of Fairness and Respect</i> 	<p>Objectivity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <i>Link to co-operative value of Ownership</i> 	<p>Accountability</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions and should give reasons for their decisions and actions. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so and which they can reasonably be expected to know is either exempt or confidential and is not to be disclosed to protect the wider public interest. <i>Link to co-operative value of Openness and Involvement</i> 	<p>Openness</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holders of public office should be truthful. 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. <i>Link to co-operative value of Honesty</i> 	<p>Honesty</p>

- Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Leadership

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The Monitoring Officer of Telford & Wrekin Council will maintain a Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which can be found at <http://www.telford.gov.uk/councillors/name> or viewed by appointment with the Monitoring Officer by calling 01952 383200

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 (for 1 & 2) / [Hearings Sub Committee](#) (for 3 & 4), 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 Council, committee or Executive
2. The political balance is affected to the extent that it could affect the outcome of a vote relating to the business
3. The dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Borough of Telford & Wrekin area
4. It is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation
5. appropriate to grant a dispensation