

PROPOSED REVISED CODE



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S LOCAL AUTHORITY, POLICE AUTHORITY AND NON-LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

1. You are a Member or Co-opted Member of the City of London Corporation ("the Corporation") and hence you shall have regard to the Seven Principles of Public Life –
 - a) **SELFLESSNESS:** Holders of public office should act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, a friend or close associate.
 - b) **INTEGRITY:** Holders of public office should not place themselves under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
 - c) **OBJECTIVITY:** When carrying out public duties, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, holders of public office should make all choices on merit.
 - d) **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions to the public and should co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
 - e) **OPENNESS:** Holders of public office should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of their authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.
 - f) **HONESTY:** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests that relate to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

- g) **LEADERSHIP:** Holders of public office should promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in their public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.
2. As a Member or Co-opted Member of the City of London Corporation your conduct shall in particular address the Seven Principles of Public Life by:
- a) Championing the public interest, taking into account the needs of your constituents, including those that did not vote for you, and the community as a whole.
 - b) Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, City voters, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.
 - c) Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the Corporation or the good governance of the Corporation in a proper manner.
 - d) Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by allowing individuals or organisations to improperly influence you in the performance of your official duties by means of any financial or other obligations.
 - e) Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
 - f) Being accountable for your decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by constituents.
 - g) Contributing to making the Corporation's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible to enable constituents to understand the reasoning behind those decisions and to be informed when holding you and other Members to account but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it.
 - h) Behaving in accordance with all of the Corporation's legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within the Corporation's policies, protocols or procedures, including on the use of the Corporation's resources.
 - i) Ensuring that, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Corporation, such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and having regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.
 - j) Valuing your colleagues and officers of the Corporation and engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect that is essential to good local governance.

- k) Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and constituents that you engage with and those that you work alongside.
- l) Registering and declaring any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, that relate to your public duties in a manner conforming with the procedures set out below.
- m) Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of constituents with other organisations as well as within the Corporation.

Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

- 3. You must, within 28 days of taking office as a Member or Co-opted Member, and thereafter on an ongoing basis, notify the Town Clerk (on behalf of the Corporation's Monitoring Officer) of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.
- 4. The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 currently define disclosable pecuniary interests under the following categories:
 - a) Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation
 - b) Sponsorship
 - c) Contracts
 - d) Land
 - e) Licences
 - f) Corporate tenancies
 - g) Securities
- 5. Where you believe you have a sensitive interest¹, you should apply to the Monitoring Officer (via the Town Clerk) for exemption from the requirement that details of the interest be published and made available for inspection.
- 6. In addition, you must, within 28 days of taking office as a Member or Co-opted Member, and thereafter on an ongoing basis, notify the Corporation's Monitoring Officer (via the Town Clerk) of any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which you consider should be included if you are to fulfil your duty to act in conformity with the Seven Principles of Public Life.
- 7. These non-pecuniary interests will necessarily include your membership of any:

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.

- a) Management board or similar body of any charity or body directed to a charitable purpose (e.g. a trustee or director)
 - b) Club or Society having a base of operation in the City of London (e.g. Ward Clubs) or which relates to any functions of the Corporation (e.g. the Heath and Hampstead Society)
 - c) Fraternal or Sororal Societies
 - d) Livery Company, or Guild or Company seeking Livery
 - e) Political Party
 - f) Organisation, one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy, which is likely to seek to affect the policy of the Corporation or which may have an impact on its services or stakeholders
 - g) Professional Association
 - h) Trade Association
 - i) Trade Union
8. You must also notify the Corporation's Monitoring Officer (via the Town Clerk) of any gift or hospitality received by you as a Member or Co-opted Member with a value of £100 or more, or multiple gifts and/or instances of hospitality with a cumulative value of £200 or more when received from a single donor within a rolling twelve month period. Such notification must be made within 28 days of receipt, or within 28 days of reaching the cumulative threshold, as appropriate. Special provision is made for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.
 9. Entries shall be retained in the register of gifts and hospitality for three years – older entries will be removed.
 10. If an interest has not been entered onto the Corporation's register, then the Member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the Corporation at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest'¹.
 11. Following any disclosure of an interest not on the Corporation's register or the subject of pending notification², you must notify the Monitoring Officer (via the Town Clerk) of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.
 12. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State.
 13. Your participation in any item of business:
 - a) in which you have any other interest; or
 - b) that affects a donor from whom you have received any gift or hospitality;

that is registered, or ought to be registered as set out above, will need to be considered by you on a case by case basis. You will only be excluded from speaking or voting in exceptional circumstances, for example where there is a real

² This is where an interest has been notified to the Monitoring Officer but has not yet been entered on the register.

danger of bias. You are encouraged to seek advice from the Corporation's Monitoring Officer on such matters.