

5a

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
25 September 2013

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Members' Code of Conduct

Standards of Conduct

Members (including all voting, co-opted members) of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority will at all times promote and maintain high standards of conduct when they are acting in that capacity. To do this, Members should:

Serve only the public interest and treat everyone that they deal with equitably and with respect	Selflessness
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 Only use the resources of the Authority in accordance with reasonable requirements set out for their use from time to time Declare their interests in accordance with the law and with the provisions of this Code of Conduct Declare gifts and hospitality that they receive in accordance with the Fire Authority's Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality	Integrity
Make decisions on merit and in the public interest, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.	Objectivity
Be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and co-operate fully with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular role or office	Accountability
Be as open as possible about their decisions and actions and 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
Declare any private interests that relate to their duties as a Member and do whatever is necessary to resolve any conflict in such a way that protects the public interest	Honesty
Promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence	Leadership

Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests

The Monitoring Officer of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority will maintain a Register of Interests, which can be found at:

www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/managing-the-service/fra/members>

or viewed at Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service by contacting either:

Lynn Ince, Executive Support Officer

Telephone: 01743 260225, email lynn.ince@shropshirefire.gov.uk; or

Sharon Lloyd, Corporate Support Manager

Telephone 01743 260210, email sharon.lloyd@shropshirefire.gov.uk

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 and will leave the room during debate and voting on the issue
Previously undeclared Disclosable Pecuniary Interest			
Before 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 and will leave the room during debate and voting on the issue
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 and will leave the room during debate and voting on the issue
Sensitive Interests – i.e. those where the Monitoring Officer agrees with the Member 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, not the nature, of the interest	As above

Dispensations can be granted as indicated after considering the relevant circumstances:

The number of Members precluded from transacting the business is so great that it would impede the business of the Fire Authority or any committee	Monitoring Officer
The political balance is affected to the extent that it could affect the outcome of a vote relating to the business.	Monitoring Officer
The dispensation is in the interests of persons living in area of the Fire Authority.	Standards Committee
It is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.	Standards Committee