

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

APPENDIX 7

1. Personal Interest

1.1 You must declare a personal interest if matters under discussion affects either:

- Your employer, or the employer of your partner, relatives or friends
- Any organisation in which you, your partner, relatives or friends have a financial interest or from which you, your partner, relatives or friends have received payment or gifts in the last 12 months
- Any firm or corporate body in which you, your relatives or friends are partners or a director, or hold shares with a nominal value of more than £5000
- Any organisations which provide financial remuneration to you, your relatives or friends who are a member or hold a management or decision-making position
- Any organisation that you represent in your dealings with the LINK.

1.2 You should make the declaration at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as you are aware of the issue being discussed. You should also say if anything being discussed relates to anything you are required to declare on the register of interests.

2. Prejudicial Interest

2.1 If a member of the public, who knows all the relevant facts, would view your personal interest (see above) in the issue being considered to be so great that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest then your interest is prejudicial. You must leave the meeting and cannot seek to influence any decisions made.

2.2 There are some limited exceptions to the requirement that you withdraw from meetings if you have a prejudicial interest. If Participants of the LINK or public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, then you can also take part in the same way. However, you cannot remain to take part in the debate or observe the vote on the matter or seek to improperly influence the decision.

2.3 The mere existence of local knowledge, or connections within the local community, will not normally be sufficient to qualify as a prejudicial interest. There must be some factor that might positively harm your ability to judge the public interest objectively. The nature of the matter is also important, including whether a large number of people are equally affected by it or whether you or a smaller group is particularly affected.

3. The Register of Interests

- 3.1 The register of interests must be completed at the time of election or co-option and updated regularly.

Notes

You cannot be expected to declare something of which you are unaware. However, you should not ignore the existence of interests which, from the point of view of a reasonable and objective observer, you should have been aware.

If your personal interest is sensitive information, you will need to declare that you have a personal interest but you will not have to give any details about the nature of that interest or record it in the public register.

Sensitive information may include interests or information that are likely to create a serious risk of violence or intimidation against you or someone who lives with you. You should give this information and your reasons to the relevant officer.

For further guidance, refer to the Standards Board, Code of Conduct, Guide for Members 2007, www.standardsboard.co.uk.