

SC 7 REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officer presented a report (page 11 to the Agenda) on a review of the Council's Code of Conduct. The West Devon Members' Code of Conduct was adopted in June 2012 and Members were asked to review the Code in the light of experience.

There had been no major issues with the Code of Conduct since its adoption in June 2012, however, on the basis of feedback from Members and from the Monitoring Officer's perspective for clarity, a number of amendments were being proposed. These were highlighted in Appendix A presented with the report (page 15 to the Agenda) and were:

1. in "Definitions" (paragraph 2) the following clarifications were proposed:
 - (i) '**close associate**' includes someone you are in either regular or irregular contact with over a period of time who is more than just an acquaintance and who is someone a reasonable member of the public might think you would be prepared to favour or disadvantage;
 - (ii) '**family**' includes your parents; parent-in-law; son/daughter; brother/sister; son/daughter-in-law; stepson and stepdaughter; grandparent; grandchild; nephew/niece; uncle/aunt; or any of the above of a partner; any partners of these people.
2. in "Personal or other interests":
 - (i) 7.2 (c) the name and address of any person or body from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.00;
 - (ii) 7.3 Where a matter arises at a Meeting which affects the wellbeing or financial interest or position of you, any relevant person, member of your family or close associate (other than a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) more than it would affect the majority of people living within the ward or electoral division affected by the matter.
3. in "Declaration of Interests etc":
 - (i) 8.1 (d) where you have an interest under **Paragraph 7.3** you shall not take part in the discussion or vote on that matter save that you may speak on the matter before withdrawing from the Meeting room if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council that the West Devon Members' Code of Conduct be amended as shown highlighted in Appendix A to the report.