

## AGENDA – OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012

### PART ONE - OPEN COMMITTEE

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
Members are reminded to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any agenda items
3. **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**  
To consider those items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered by the Meeting as matters of urgency.

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4. <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> Meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2012 (previously circulated)	
5. <b>The Localism Act – A Guide</b>	8
6. <b>Formation of the Meadowlands Task &amp; Finish Group</b>	
7. <b>Broadband Task &amp; Finish Group</b> Regeneration Officer to report Notes of T&F Group meeting for Committee Members only	19
8. <b>Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project</b> Regeneration Officer to report Briefing note for Committee Members only	23
9. <b>Committee Performance Report</b> Report of the Business Development Manager	26
10. <b>Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Report on Inspection and Authorisation</b> Members to note that there have been no requests to use the powers under RIPA during the last quarter	

### **PART TWO ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION IS LIKELY TO BE DISCLOSED (if any)**

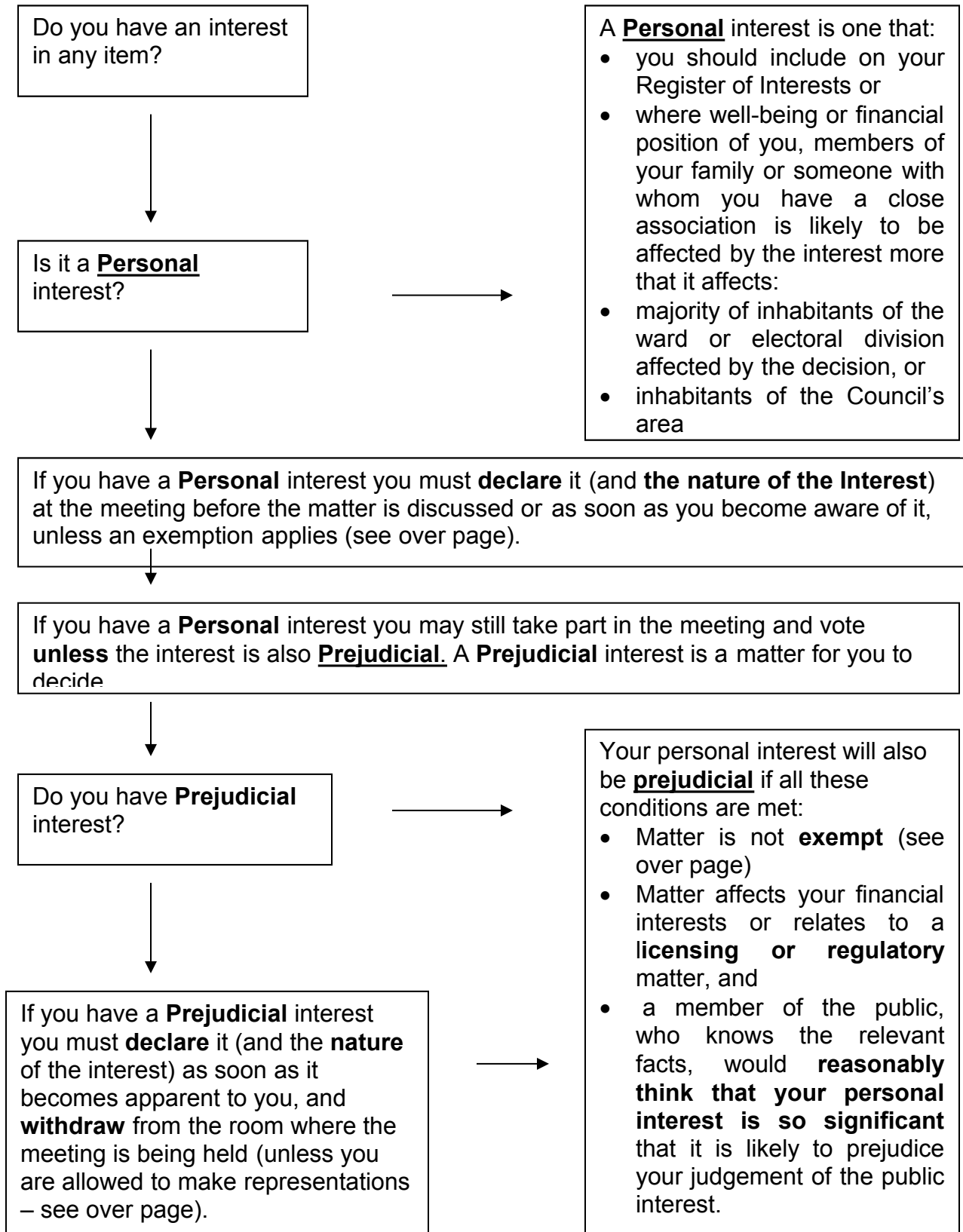
If any, the Committee is recommended to pass the following resolution:-

“**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting for the under-mentioned item(s) of business on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act”.

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**West Devon Borough Council Members' Code of Conduct  
Declarations of interest**

**If you are in any doubt about what to do, please seek advice**



## West Devon Borough Council Members' Code of Conduct (see part 5 of the Constitution)

Personal Interests - You will have a personal interest in a matter if:

- anything that you should have mentioned in your Register and/or
- the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association

is likely to be affected by the business of the Council more than it would affect the majority of the inhabitants of the ward or electoral division affected by the decision, or the inhabitants of the Council's area.

Exemption - An exemption applies where your personal interest arises solely from your membership (or position of control/management) on any body to which you were appointed/nominated by the Council or any other body exercising functions of a public nature. In such cases (unless you have a prejudicial interest) you only need to declare your interest if and when you speak on a matter.

Personal Interests include:

- Your membership/position of control/management in bodies to which the Council appointed/nominated you, or any bodies exercising functions of a public nature, directed to charitable purposes or whose principal purposes include influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party or trade union;
- Your job(s) or business(es), and the name of your employer;
- Name of any person who has made a payment towards your election expenses or expenses you have incurred in carrying out your duties;
- The name of any person, company/other body which has a place of business/land in the Council's area and in which you have a share of more than £25,000/stake of more than 1/100<sup>th</sup> of the share capital of the company;
- Any contracts with the Council between you, your firm or a company (of which you a paid director) for goods, services or works.
- Any gift/hospitality estimated to > £25 and the name of the person who gave it to you;
- Any land/property in the Council's area in which you have a beneficial interest (or a licence to occupy) including the land and house you live in, any allotments you own or use.

Definitions

- "Well-being" - condition of happiness and contentedness. Anything that could affect your quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect your well-being.
- "Member of your family" means a partner (i.e. your spouse/civil partner/someone you live with in a similar capacity), parent/parent-in-law, son/daughter, step-son/step-daughter, child of partner, brother/sister, grandparent/grandchild, uncle/aunt, nephew/niece, or the partners of any of these persons.
- Person with whom you have a "close association" means someone with whom you are in close regular contact over a period of time who is more than an acquaintance. It is someone a reasonable member of the public might think you would be prepared to favour/ disadvantage when discussing a matter which affects them. It may be a friend, a colleague, a business associate or someone you know through general social contacts.

Prejudicial Interests - your personal interest will also be prejudicial if you meet conditions set out overleaf.

Exempt categories - you will not have a Prejudicial interest in a matter if it relates to:

(a) any tenancy/lease you hold with the Council (unless relating to your particular tenancy/lease); (b) Schools (meals/transport/travelling expenses): if parent/guardian of child in full time education or parent governor (unless relating to the school your child attends); (c) if you are receiving/entitled to statutory sick pay; (d) An allowance/payment/indemnity for members; (e) ceremonial honour given to members and (f) setting the council tax or precept.

Making representations - if you have a Prejudicial interest, you must declare that you have an interest and the nature of that interest as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence, or answer questions about the matter. If that is the case, then you can also attend the meeting for that purpose. However you must leave the room immediately you have finished and you cannot take part in the debate or vote.

Sensitive information

You may be exempt from having to declare sensitive information on your Register of interests in which case, although you must declare that you have an interest, you don't have to give any details about that interest on the register or to the meeting (please speak to the Monitoring Officer about this first).

Revised May 2007

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## General role

Within its terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will:

- (i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- (ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and any committee or joint committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants; and
- (iv) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or its Committees and/or any joint committee on matters which affect the Council's area or the inhabitants of that area.

## Specific functions

### (a) Policy development and review

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may:

- (i) review existing policy and recommend changes to such policy or the creation of new policy;
- (ii) assist the Council in the development of its Budget and Policy Framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (iii) conduct research, involve the community and carry out other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (iv) consider and implement ways to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (v) question members of committees and senior officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- (vi) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.
- (vii) Regulation of Investigatory Powers – to review the Council's RIPA Policy and its use annually
- (viii) Consider internal reports on the use of RIPA on a quarterly basis.

### (b) Scrutiny

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may:

- (i) review and scrutinise the performance of committees and Council officers and decisions made both in relation to individual decisions and over time;

- (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) question members of committees and senior officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects when necessary;
- (iv) exercise the right to call-in, for re-consideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by any committee, where appropriate;
- (v) make recommendations to the appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (vi) review and scrutinise, with or without others, the performance and activities of other public bodies in the area on any relevant, general or specific issue; and
- (ix) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent) when necessary.
- (x) Scrutinise the work of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the Partnership)
- (xi) Scrutinise and investigate matters referred to O&S by any Member on Crime & Disorder issues of local concern raised under Councillor Call for Action

(c) **Performance Management**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall be responsible for overseeing performance management of the Council, including the process of continuous improvement.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may:

- (i) oversee the co-ordination and conduct of the Best Value process in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government Act 1999;
- (ii) take an overview of the performance monitoring throughout the authority and make recommendations;
- (viii) where appropriate, make recommendations to the relevant committee or to Council;

but the responsibility for service performance rests with individual committees.

**Partnership arrangements**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall be responsible for the monitoring of partnership arrangements in accordance with the Council's Partnership Policy.

(e) **Finance**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to it.

(f) **Annual report**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall report annually to Council on its workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

**Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will conduct its proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.