

Questions

We are specifically seeking your views on the amendments that have been made to the Code. However, your views on any aspect of the revised Code are welcome.

We ask for your comments on the changes made in each section of the Code. If you wish to comment on a specific provision, rather than on a section as a whole, please provide a reference to that provision(s) as part of your response i.e. (Provision 3.10).

[Read the consultation paper.](#)

1. Do you agree that there is a need to revise the Councillors' Code of Conduct?

Yes No

Please provide information to support your response:

[It would be helpful if the Code was simpler and clearer with particular reference to declarations of interest.](#)



2. Do you have any comments on the changes proposed for Section 1: Introduction to the Code of Conduct?

Yes No

Please provide your comment:

[It is helpful to see the Code written in the first person and any unnecessary content and duplication removed.](#)

3. Do you have any comments on the changes proposed for Section 2: Key Principles of the Code of Conduct?

Yes No

Please provide your comment:

4. Do you have any comments on the changes proposed for Section 3: General Conduct?

Yes No

Please provide your comment:

The general conduct provisions are more concise and easier to understand. It is helpful to have the confidentiality provisions clarified.

5. Do you have any comments on the changes proposed for Section 4: Registration of Interests?

Yes No

Please provide your comment:

It is a positive step on the grounds of personal safety to remove the requirement on councillors to publicly register a specific address. The removal of the need to have a register of gifts and hospitality will reduce administration.



6. Do you have any comments on the changes proposed for Section 5: Declaration of Interests?

Yes No

Please provide your comment:

This section is simpler now as it significantly liberalises the requirements in terms of being a council appointed representative on an outside body except for quasi-judicial matters or for times when duties as a director etc or other reasons create an actual conflict. As a consequence, there will be a greater requirement for Councillors to be aware of when, outwith the Code, there are relevant legal obligations in terms of duties owed to outside bodies.



7. Do you have any comments on the changes proposed for Section 6: Lobbying and Access?

Yes No

Please provide your comment:

The lobbying provisions are clearer in terms of when this is appropriate and when it is likely not to be appropriate. It is helpful that the Code now provides that there may be circumstances in which it is best not to respond to a constituent, and that councillors are not obliged by the Code to respond to every contact. It is noted that the data protection obligations in terms of sharing personal data with other councillors in a multi-member ward seem to go further than that provided in the ICO guidance on this matter.

8. Do you agree to the changes proposed for Section 7: Taking Decisions on Quasi-Judicial or Regulatory Applications?

Yes No

Please provide your comment:

This section is clearer and more concise. It is helpful to have the more generic approach which clarifies that the section covers all types of applications and decisions, and not having it so heavily focussed on Planning matters. It is also very clear for councillors in terms of what they can and cannot do.

9. Overall, how clear do you find the proposed revised Code?

Very clear Mostly clear Sometimes unclear Very unclear

Please tell us where you think the clarity of the Code could be improved, and how:

10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about any aspect of the revised Code?

Please comment here:

I think clear guidance on the new Code would be very helpful, particularly as the Code is now much more concise and focussed.

