

Members' Code drafting amendments

- Paragraph 2 - The Standards Board for England believes that the definition of 'official capacity' should be clarified to ensure that suspended members interacting with the council, members discussing council business on blogs or websites and members discussing the business of the authority at political group meetings are within the scope of the code.
- Paragraph 10(2)(b) - We believe that the making of orders should be added to the list of regulatory determinations that would give rise to a prejudicial interest. Orders would include those made in relation to footpaths, highways, planning, designating certain areas for dog fouling, litter, abandoned vehicles, etc.
- We also ask that the phrase 'in relation to' be changed in order to clarify when the regulatory aspect of prejudicial interests will apply. It is unclear whether the member, a close associate or body of which they are a member have to be the applicant in order for there to be a prejudicial interest under the regulatory aspect or whether they merely have to be affected in some way (for example as a school governor)
- Paragraph 10(2)(c) - We request that transport discretionary fares be added to the list of exemptions. This would ensure members who are pensioners or who have disabled relatives or who have children can participate in decisions about such matters.
- We also believe decisions relating to standards committee hearings should be added to the list of decision categories where members will not have a prejudicial interest.
- Paragraph 10(2)(c)(iv) - We ask that insurance be added to the indemnity exemption – unless it relates to a particular member's insurance.
- Paragraph 11 - We believe that all members with a prejudicial interest should be able to attend overview and scrutiny committees to give evidence and answer questions etc when the public do not have that right. However, attendance should only be allowed when the committee has requested it.