

## **Declarations of Interest**

### **Procedural Note for Elected Members**

All members are required by law to complete a declaration of interests form to register their financial and other interests that could potentially conflict with their role as local councillor, including their membership of the Joint Committee. In addition, each Council has its own process for recording such interests, as well as its own adopted members' code of conduct. If in doubt, members should seek advice from their Council's Monitoring Officer in the first instance.

In addition to completing a declaration of interests form, members are also required to declare any interests at the start of a meeting of the Joint Committee, where that particular interest conflicts with some or all of the business to be discussed at that meeting. When making a declaration of interest, members should state whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. It is a matter for the member whether or not they choose to declare an interest, and whether or not that interest is personal or prejudicial. Members should refer to their Council's Code of Conduct and seek advice from their Council's Monitoring Officer prior to the start of meeting. If members become aware of a potential interest during the course of the meeting, they should make a declaration at the earliest opportunity and seek advice from the legal representative of the Accountable Body if required.

In respect of personal interests, member may remain in the meeting and take part in any debate and vote on the item of business. In respect of prejudicial interests, then they must leave the meeting immediately, not take part in the discussion of or vote on those items in which they have declared a prejudicial interest.

The interest will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.