



What is a ‘declaration of interest’?

BRIEF GUIDE FOR COUNCILLORS ON A DECLARATION OF INTEREST

When do I need to declare my interests?

You need to declare your interests at all meetings where matters being discussed or to be discussed affect your interests. This can be done at the start of the meeting or as soon as it becomes apparent to you if later you realize that you have an interest to declare.

What is a personal interest?

You have a personal interest in a matter if that matter affects the well being or financial position of you, any of your relatives or your friends, **more** than it would affect other people in the authority's area.

Can I stay in the meeting if I have a personal interest?

You can still take part in the meeting and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a prejudicial interest.

What is a prejudicial interest?

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public who knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think that they are so significant that they are likely to affect your judgement of the public interest. If a member of the public would think your judgement would be affected, then this is a prejudicial interest.

What do I need to do if I have a prejudicial interest?

If you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting, you must leave the room. You cannot take part in discussions on that matter or try to improperly influence anyone else's decision on the matter. It is important that you leave the room so you and your authority are seen to be acting in an appropriate and unbiased way, and to remove pressure from the remaining members.