

# The Revised Code of Conduct

**Nick Verginis**  
**Policy Adviser**

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# Timetable

- **Model Code tabled in Parliament on 4 April 2007**
- **Available from the Stationary Office website Order No. 1159**  
**[www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si200711.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si200711.htm)**

## **Next steps:**

- **Code comes into effect on 3 May 2007**
- **Guidance and advice**
- **Adopt the Revised Code by 1 October 2007**

# Aims of the Revised Code

- A clearer, more enabling Code
- Rules on interests are clearer and empower members as community advocates and to express objection or support openly
- Remove duty to report breaches
- Include specific provision on bullying
- Greater clarity on confidential information
- Criminal activities covered by the Code

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# Interests – what is it trying to achieve?

- **Members do not have a personal interest where it is merely something they share with their ward**
- **Reduce number of personal interests to be declared**
- **‘Public service interests’ need only be declared when you speak on the matter and only prejudicial if related to specific applications/funding**

# Personal Interests – New Definition Para 8

**You have a personal interest where the matter:**

- **Relates to an interest that you must register or**
- **Affects the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close personal association, to a greater extent than it would affect other people in your ward or electoral division, or the ward or electoral division affected by the decision**

# Prejudicial Interests – New Para 12(2)

**A member with a prejudicial interest may make representations, answer questions and give evidence before leaving the room, provided that members of the public are allowed to attend for the same purpose**

- **Increases opportunity to express support or objections**
- **Members have same rights as members of the public**
- **Improves transparency: makes overt what was covert influence**
- **Encourage clear standing orders and procedural rules**

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# Disclosure of confidential information

Under para 4(a)(iv) members may disclose confidential information where:

- reasonable and in the public interest and
- made in good faith and complies with the reasonable requirements of the authority

Members will need to:

- Ask 'why is this confidential?'
- Raise concern through appropriate channels and seek advice
- Consider circumstances: relevant whistleblowing + FOI protocols

**We will publish guidance on how to apply test**

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# Disrepute and private capacity conduct

- **Local Government Bill reinstates pre-Collins position: the Code will once again apply to conduct in a private capacity**
- **But the Code limits that to criminal conduct that has led to a conviction**



# Adopting the Revised Code

- Adopt revised Code by 1 October 2007
- Encourage your authority to adopt early
- Include ten general principles with your local codes
- Parishes can adopt our Model Code of Conduct for Parishes including paragraph 12(2)

# Supporting the change

- Provision of guidance and training materials
- Road shows in June + our Annual Assembly 15-16 October
- Check our website for updates:  
[www.standardsboard.co.uk](http://www.standardsboard.co.uk)