

**INTERESTS - A GUIDE FOR MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS**

*Members are reminded that the new Bromsgrove Code of Conduct was adopted by Council and took effect from 19 July 2007. The new Code requires interests to be declared at all meetings, including any informal meetings, you attend as a councillor.*

**DEFINITION OF INTERESTS**

You have a **PERSONAL INTEREST** if the issue being discussed at a meeting affects the well-being or finances of you, your family or your close associates more than most other people who live in the ward affected by the issue.

Personal interests are also things relating to an interest you must register, such as any outside bodies to which you have been appointed by the Council or membership of certain public bodies.

A personal interest is also a **PREJUDICIAL INTEREST** if it affects:

- the finances, or
- a regulatory function (such as licensing or planning)

of you, your family or your close associates **AND** which a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of the facts would believe likely to harm or impair your ability to judge the public interest.

**DECLARING INTERESTS**

If you have an interest you must normally declare it at the start of the meeting or as soon as you realise you have the interest.

**EXCEPTION:**

If you have a **PERSONAL INTEREST** which arises because of your membership of another public body you only need to declare it if and when you speak on the matter.

If you have both a **PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST** you must not debate or vote on the matter and you must leave the room.

**EXCEPTION:**

If you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting at which members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, you have the same rights as the public and can also attend the meeting to make representations, give evidence or answer questions **BUT YOU MUST LEAVE THE ROOM ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED AND YOU CANNOT DEBATE OR VOTE.**

However, you must not use these rights to seek to improperly influence a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.

**NOT TO BE REMOVED**