

## Appendix : Revised Members' Code of Conduct - overview

The **underpinning legislation** in respect of conduct issues **remains unchanged**, and therefore the existing requirements in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests are not affected by the proposed changes.

The main differences between the model code and the Combined Authority's current Code of Conduct are:

- The creation of a **new category of registrable interest**, namely **other registerable interests (ORI)**. These are not disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI); the criminal sanctions that apply to any failure to register disclosable pecuniary interests will not apply to personal interests,
- The model code explicitly applies to Members **giving the impression** that they are acting in their official capacity (the current Code only applies where a Member **is** acting in their official capacity),
- The model code expressly states that it applies to Members' activities in **all forms of communication**,
- There is an express requirement to **promote equality and not discriminate**,
- The obligation to not bring the role or the Combined Authority into **disrepute** has been reinstated,
- Explicit reference is now made to a **Member's use of position and resources**,
- Requirements to:
  - undertake code of conduct training,
  - co-operate in any investigation,
  - not intimidate anyone administering an investigation, and
  - comply with any sanction imposed upon a finding of a breach of the Codeare now explicitly included in the Code.

The election of a Mayor will also mean that, for the first time, formal decisions will (in relation to Mayoral Functions) be taken by a Member (the Mayor) acting alone (as opposed to acting collectively as a member of the Combined Authority or a committee). The Mayor may also delegate some functions to individual members of the Combined Authority. Accordingly, the proposed Code of Conduct now reflects how an individual decision maker will promote the ethical standards and principles of conduct which apply to Members in meetings.

It is proposed to retain some aspects of the current Code which are not in the model Code, where these are considered to complement or add to the model Code, for example by referencing local protocols. As a consequence of the new category of registerable interests, significant interests are now referred to as Non-registerable Significant Personal Interests (NSPI)

The new provisions (that is, those for which the current Code has no directly similar or equivalent provision, and which are taken from the model Code) are highlighted in blue in the draft.