



C O U N C I L

All Members of the Council are
HEREBY SUMMONED
to attend a meeting of the Council
to be held on:

Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 7.00 pm
Hackney Town Hall,
Mare Street, London E8 1EA

Live stream link: https://youtube.com/live/QoNC_vb3DSE

Back up link: https://youtube.com/live/mcpouDIw_Qw

Dawn Carter-McDonald
Interim Chief Executive
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www.hackney.gov.uk

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MEETING OF COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Speaker's Announcements

3 Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to consider the guidance which accompanies this agenda, having particular regard to the restrictions on voting for Members with council tax arrears and make declarations of interests as appropriate.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 15 - 82)

To consider the minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary meetings held on Wednesday 24 January 2024.

5 Deputations

School Exclusions in Hackney

We, members of Hackney REP, a community partnership of local organisations composed of parents, workers, volunteers and young people, want to be listened at Council to share the findings, concerns and ongoing issues related to school exclusions in Hackney that are negatively affecting our children and young people, both educationally and emotionally.

National data for 2021/22 shows 6,495 permanent exclusions, and 578,000 suspensions.

That is 9,414 children and young people either permanently excluded or suspended each school day.

Though Hackney figures have improved, we still rank amongst the top 3 London boroughs with the highest number of exclusions.

Hackney Council has carried out significant reviews on the impact of school exclusions; the December 2021 review agreed for 'greater efforts to be made collectively to identify the well-being needs and safeguarding risks to children who have been excluded from school or have been identified as at risk of exclusion.'

We are here following this recommendation.

Hackney Council committed to Mental Health as a Human Right for all. We see this deputation as the beginning of an urgent, collaborative effort to end

the lifelong educational and mental health impact school exclusion policies have on children and young people.

Deputation Leader: Kay Richardson

Introduced by: Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof

6 Questions from Members of the Public

A member of the public who lives, works, or studies in the Borough can participate in Full Council meetings by asking a question.

The deadline for questions from members of the public is 12 noon, four clear working days before the meeting (Wednesday,) If you wish to submit a question you can do so by emailing governance@hackney.gov.uk or via the Council's website.

A supplementary agenda setting out any public questions received after the publication of the main agenda will be circulated shortly after this deadline.

7 Questions from Members of the Council

7.1 Cllr Adejare to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service

Amid the cost of living crisis, the Household Support Fund has allowed us to help our most vulnerable residents. With the government proposing to end this financial lifeline, can the Cabinet member advise on how residents most in need will continue to be supported?

7.2 Cllr Garbett to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Given the successful summer Ridley Road Market event, the Council's commitment to an inclusive economy and intention to 'activate' spaces in Dalston, its heritage and the views of residents and traders - will the Council review the Hackney Carnival route to ensure it goes through Ridley Road?

7.3 Cllr Lynch to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

What was the impact of the Hackney Health and Wellbeing Day, held at the Town Hall in partnership with the Richmond Road Medical Centre and have any lessons been learnt for the future?

7.4 Cllr Garbett to the Mayor

How would five and a half million pounds of cuts to children's and youth services square with the Mayor's manifesto commitment for "a bright future for every child and young person" in Hackney?

7.5 Cllr Suso-Runge to the Deputy Cabinet Member, Private Rented Sector and Affordability

Given the significant pressures renters are experiencing, including unaffordable rents, poor quality homes and illegal evictions, could the Deputy Cabinet Member please provide Council with an update on the progress of the Private Sector Housing Strategy?

7.6 Cllr Garbett to Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

What action does the Council plan to take to account for, and reduce, pay-outs to scaffolding providers incurred because of delays to the start of building works?

7.8 Cllr Walker to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

With local government budgets pushed to breaking point, this will have a direct knock on effect for many community services. Will the Cabinet Member comment on how more effective partnership and collaboration with the voluntary community sector is being encouraged to ensure services to our most vulnerable residents are protected?

7.9 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

The Cabinet member suggested in public statements and to the scrutiny panel that motorbike parking charges will start at 6p, does he accept that that charge is for bays that don't exist and that no budget has been allocated for installing them?

7.10 Cllr Grace Adebayo to the Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing Needs and Homelessness

Due to the failure of the Government's policy on housing since 2010, we have seen a huge rise in homelessness which has directly affected many families in Hackney. Can the cabinet member update us on what is being done to tackle this crisis?

7.11 Cllr Rathbone to the Deputy Mayor for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration

Could the situation be clarified regarding the future of the former Thames Water depot site in Lea Bridge Road which although just over the border in Waltham Forest is of considerable interest and concern from Hackney residents, particularly in Lea Bridge ward?

8 Elected Mayor's Statement

9 Budget and Council Tax Report 2024/25 (Pages 83 - 454)

Report of the Mayor: Enclosed

10 Equality Plan 2024-26 (Pages 455 - 574)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities: Enclosed

11 Children and Families Service Full Year Update Report to Members 2022/23 (Pages 575 - 662)

Report of the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care: Enclosed

12 Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (Pages 663 - 800)

Report of the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy: Enclosed

13 Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 (Pages 801 - 818)

Report of Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities: Enclosed

14 Confirmation of Political Proportionality and Appointments to Committees and Commissions (Pages 819 - 828)

Report of the Acting Director of Legal, Governance and Electoral Services: Enclosed

Appendix 2 of the report is to follow.

15 Proposed Calendar of Meetings 2024/25 (Pages 829 - 844)

Report of the Acting Director of Legal, Governance and Electoral Services: Enclosed

16 Motions

16a Green Motion - Reduce Glyphosate to Zero Now

Hackney

Council

notes:

1. The use of herbicides has a significant impact on the environment by removing plants that are an important food source for a wide variety of native insects. Pesticide product mixtures have also been shown to be toxic to bees and earthworms. There is also a risk of runoff from hard surfaces into waterways, putting aquatic ecosystems at risk. We not only face a climate emergency, we also face the related emergency of collapsing biodiversity that is increasingly referred to as the 'sixth mass extinction' (1):
2. That 99% of pesticides are made from fossil fuels (2). Furthermore, pesticides exacerbate the climate emergency throughout their lifecycle via

manufacturing, packaging, transportation, application, and even through environmental degradation and disposal;

3. There is a growing body of scientific evidence showing a link between glyphosate exposure and an increased risk of cancer; the World Health Organisation (WHO) deemed glyphosate a 'probable carcinogen' (3). It has been also shown to worsen chronic conditions such as asthma, and particularly affects children and pregnant people. In addition, it poses a health hazard to workers who spray Hackney's streets.
4. The spraying of glyphosate in Hackney is causing concern among residents and elected representatives about its potential harmful effects on children, animals, wildlife and biodiversity on our streets, housing estates and parks;

The contracting staff who carry out this work need to be protected from harm;

5. The Mayor of London's commitment in the Environment Strategy to "reduce the use of pesticides and peat-based products, such as compost";
6. The work of Transport for London (TfL) with suppliers and contractors to explore safer alternatives such as hot foam, for essential vegetation management and weed control.
7. Glyphosate, the most used herbicide was narrowly relicensed in the EU with the condition that Member States "minimize the use in public spaces, such as parks, public playgrounds and gardens."

Hackney Council further notes:

8. The work of the council to date in reducing the use of glyphosate with a 50% reduction in on-street spraying against 2017 levels.

Hackney Council has demonstrated:

9. A commitment to further reducing spraying across the borough, including a total cessation of spraying in Hackney's Town centres, by removing weeds by hand; a successful year-long pilot for more than 200 out of a total 237 green areas across Hackney's housing estates which will now go glyphosate-free permanently, with an intention to upscale to all estate-based green areas; a change in how the council sprays, from operatives mounted on vehicles to spot-spraying with knapsacks; a no-spray 10x Green area around Daubeney Road to explore whether a no-spray approach is more beneficial to biodiversity by avoiding the removal of plants that support insect populations. These changes have been well received by the public.

The Council acknowledges:

10. Several councils around the country have gone fully glyphosate-free including in London. The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was the first council in London to cease the use of glyphosate, to support biodiversity and protect habitat against any long-term chemical effect by using chemical-free weedkillers, such as hot foam and hot steam. Lambeth and Westminster have also gone pesticide-free and are rolling out programmes for increased biodiversity. Lambeth has a community weeding scheme which encourages residents to leave some annual plants to grow, as well as other initiatives, and

Westminster is developing a new 'Greening Project'.

11. Where there is a duty to eradicate Japanese Knotweed because of risk to critical infrastructure or mobility issues risking residents' safety, then glyphosate may be used until an acceptable non-chemical alternative becomes available. But its use should be limited to stem injection rather than spraying.

The Council resolves to:

12. Educate residents in the way that weeds are actually 'pavement plants' (4) and a much needed source of biodiversity in the city, by maintaining regular communications in all appropriate council forums and on estates, as well as with biodiversity events and workshops for residents if/where financially feasible;
13. Bring forward an action plan which takes into consideration technical and financial concerns and cost-saving opportunities (5), including a timetable for a complete phase-out of the spraying of glyphosate and any other pesticides, substituting them with non-chemical alternative weed management methods including leaving areas for biodiversity in all council operations.
14. Adopt a clear policy for the council's weed management strategy which details a phase-out plan and timetable.
15. To engage with the Pesticide-Free London Leaders Network and use this space to create and keep to a clear phase-out plan, as well as share learnings with other councils in the network.

Proposer: Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

Seconder: Cllr Zoë Garbett

Sources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52881831>

<https://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-and-the-climate-crisis/>

<https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MonographVolume112-1.pdf>

https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/greener_cities_-_a_guide_to_our_pavement_plants?fr=sYjY5OTExOTMxNQ

<https://www.pan-uk.org/site/wp-content/uploads/Cost-saving-approaches-to-going-pesticide-free.pdf>

16b Labour Motion - Poverty Reduction and the Local Government Funding

Hackney Council notes:

1. Following the Autumn Statement, Hackney Council's Funding will remain below 2010 levels.
2. The Local Government Association (LGA) estimates that Councils in England face a funding gap of £4 billion.
3. The Institute of Fiscal Studies notes that local government funding in London is 17% lower than the relative need - the largest gap of any region in England.
4. Hackney Council has suffered a decrease in core Government funding in real terms of £156m since 2010.
5. The Household Support Fund (HSF) enabled the council to provide a lifeline to tens of thousands of households in Hackney struggling to afford energy,

- food, clothing and other essentials, particularly the 40% of children living in poverty.
6. The continued calculation of the social care grant using the relative needs formula based on adult need only, fails to provide adequate funding for Hackney with high need for children's social care.
 7. Hackney is carrying a deficit in relation to SEND funding and has one of the largest proportions of Education, Health and Care Plan's in the country.
 8. The funding gap has forced the Council to increase Council tax by the maximum 4.99%.
 9. The Council is honouring the commitment to increase Council tax support for Hackney's low income households and doubling the tax on empty properties.
 10. The council has established a poverty reduction framework working with partners to reduce poverty for Hackney Residents. The framework makes connections between crisis support, early help and prevention and tackling longer term drivers of poverty e.g. unemployment, housing. The framework includes the money hub which has paid out £1.5m in grants and £2.0m in new benefit income to vulnerable residents.
 11. The programme is dependent on HSF and without this funding the programme will be under threat.

Hackney Council further notes:

12. The letter recently sent by the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Finance to Michael Gove Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, expressing serious concerns about the inadequacy of Hackney's funding and asking Government to implement a sustainable long term funding solution that takes proper account of current and future needs.

Hackney Council resolves to:

13. Call on the Government to restore the Household Support Fund in advance of the Spring Statement and to guarantee continuation of this funding.
14. Lobby for fair funding for Hackney.
15. Campaign for reform of the method used to allocate social care funding and ensure adequate funding for Hackney's needs.
16. Call for restoration of Hackney's Core Funding to 2010 levels.
17. Call for comprehensive reform of SEND funding and the implementation of a future funding settlement which covers the needs of Hackney residents.
18. Call for Longer-term pooled funding in place of short-term competitive funding pots to prevent councils competing with each other for funding they desperately need.
19. Contact political parties ahead of the general election as to the details of their future plans to stabilise and fix local government finance, and to respond to them with Hackney's requirements.

Proposer: Cllr Margaret Gordon

Seconder: Cllr Sharon Patrick

16c Labour Motion - London Charter to End Rough Sleeping

Hackney Council notes:

1. Despite the Government's commitment in 2019 to end rough sleeping by 2024, estimates show there has been an increase in rough sleeping in all regions of England, with London and the south-east accounting for almost half of the rise.
2. Rough sleeping has increased under this Government, with the number of rough sleepers having increased by 74% since 2010.
3. The most recent annual count by the London-only Combined Homelessness and Information Network (Chain) showed 10,053 rough sleepers spotted on London's streets between April 2022 and March 2023. A total of 4,068 people were counted between July and September 2023 for the most recent quarterly update with half of those new to the streets.
4. The majority of people sleeping rough in England are male, aged over 26 years old and from the UK. Meanwhile the Office for National Statistics found men who are living on the street outnumber women at a ratio of six to one.
5. Women are often missing from rough sleeping counts because they tend to be less visible than male rough sleepers due to the risk of violence on the streets. A coalition of homelessness and women's organisations in London conducted a women's rough sleeping census in October 2022 and found 154 women, including trans and non-binary women, sleeping rough in London in a week. That number was higher than previously thought with an extra 71 women found across 13 London boroughs when the data was compared to the latest official rough sleeping count.
6. The cost of living crisis has exacerbated longstanding drivers of homelessness, such as a shortage of affordable housing, an often punitive welfare system and increasingly stretched health services.
7. Local authorities and homelessness charities state that street homelessness is just the tip of the iceberg and estimate the number of people living without a home is much higher than the figures show, with many people in informal living arrangements such as sofa surfing.
8. The number of households living in temporary accommodation (TA) in England are at an all-time high. As of March 2023, 104,510 households were living in TA, including 65,000 households with children.
9. Over 3,000 households in Hackney were among more than 300,000 nationwide who spent Christmas without a home. In Hackney this includes 3,500 children, and around 50% of TA placements are now outside our borough, severing people from their livelihoods and support networks.
10. Like other local authorities, Hackney has seen a precipitous increase in the number of homelessness applications. The number of households seeking support is up by 44% from 2017/18 to 2021/22. The Council anticipates the number of approaches will continue to increase at around 8% per year.
11. Hackney's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, adopted at Cabinet in December, will ensure we strengthen the advice, support and tools available to people at risk of homelessness need, and make sure that no one in Hackney is left facing homelessness alone. This will include maximising access to short and long-term affordable housing, tackling rough sleeping and addressing homelessness among young people in Hackney.

Hackney Council further notes:

12. That the Mayor of London's Rough Sleeping Charter was created by a pan-London coalition working to end rough sleeping, and enshrines principles and

actions needed to tackle the issue; an example of London's commitment to working together to end rough sleeping for good.

13. The Charter sets out six principles for signatories to uphold in their work including:
14. Accepting that whilst people sleeping rough may have problems, they aren't problem people
15. Recognising that everyone rough sleeping is unique, and there should be meaningful options for all, regardless of immigration status
16. Ensuring that people sleeping rough are safe from violence, abuse, theft and discrimination and that they have the full protection of the law
17. The Charter also includes key actions that signatories commit to undertake and support:
18. Acknowledging people when they talk to you or ask you for money, even if you decide you would rather not give it to them directly
19. If you see someone sleeping rough who needs help, let Streetlink London know
20. Volunteer, donate, or support a charity who has joined this pledge

The Council resolves to:

21. Ask the Mayor of Hackney to sign the London Charter to End Rough Sleeping on behalf of Hackney Council.
22. Continue to call on the Government to:
23. Remove the cap on Housing Benefit subsidy for TA, which is currently set at the 2011 Local Housing Allowance rate, to enable local authorities to provide more TA locally.
24. Increase the Homelessness Prevention Grant in 2024-25.
25. Implement an emergency increase in Discretionary Housing Payments in the current financial year.
26. Provide additional grant funding to acquire Private Rented Stock released by landlords (currently 40% of all sales listings in London).
27. Invest in new build affordable housing – bringing London's Affordable Homes Programme target back up to at least 35,000 homes.
28. Increase the 40% cap on the proportion of individual sites that can be funded through Right to Buy receipts and allow boroughs to use receipts in conjunction with grant funding (particularly Affordable Homes Programme grant).
29. Address the financial shortfall created by the 7% rent cap in 2023/24
30. Deliver a long-term rent settlement post-2025 which puts social housing on a sustainable financial footing
31. Fully fund the new Decent Homes Standard and ensure a long-term and more easily accessible funding pot for home retrofit measures.

Proposer: Cllr Sharon Patrick

Seconded: Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren

Sources

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/feb/28/rough-sleeping-in-england-rises-cost-of-living>
<https://cityharvest.org.uk/blog/homelessness-uk-increased-by-74-since-2010/#:~:text=Recent%20statistics%20indicate%20a%2035,ongoing%20challenges%20in%20addressing%20homelessness.>
<https://www.bigissue.com/news/housing/britains-homelessness-shame-cold-hard-facts/>

Dates of Future Meetings

This is the last meeting of Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24. The next meeting will be the Council's Annual Meeting which will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 15 May 2024.

Public Attendance

The Town Hall is open. Information on forthcoming Council meetings can be obtained from the Town Hall Reception.

Members of the public and representatives of the press are entitled to attend Council meetings and remain and hear discussions on matters within the public part of the meeting. They are not, however, entitled to participate in any discussions. Council meetings can also be observed via the live-stream facility, the link for which appears on the agenda front sheet of each committee meeting.

On occasions part of the meeting may be held in private and will not be open to the public. This is if an item being considered is likely to lead to the disclosure of exempt or confidential information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Reasons for exemption will be specified for each respective agenda item.

For further information, including public participation, please visit our website <https://hackney.gov.uk/menu#get-involved-council-decisions> or contact: governance@hackney.gov.uk

Rights of Press and Public to Report on Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 give the public the right to film, record audio, take photographs, and use social media and the internet at meetings to report on any meetings that are open to the public.

By attending a public meeting of the Council, Executive, any committee or sub-committee, any Panel or Commission, or any Board you are agreeing to these guidelines as a whole and in particular the stipulations listed below:

- Anyone planning to record meetings of the Council and its public meetings through any audio, visual or written methods they find appropriate can do so providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting;
- You are welcome to attend a public meeting to report proceedings, either in 'real time' or after conclusion of the meeting, on a blog, social networking site, news forum or other online media;
- You may use a laptop, tablet device, smartphone or portable camera to record a written or audio transcript of proceedings during the meeting;
- Facilities within the Town Hall and Council Chamber are limited and recording equipment must be of a reasonable size and nature to be easily accommodated.
- You are asked to contact the Officer whose name appears at the beginning of this Agenda if you have any large or complex recording equipment to see whether this can be accommodated within the existing facilities;
- You must not interrupt proceedings and digital equipment must be set to 'silent' mode;
- You should focus any recording equipment on Councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will ask any members of the public present if they have objections to being visually recorded. Those visually recording a meeting are asked to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed or photographed.

Failure to respect the wishes of those who do not want to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing you to cease reporting or recording and you may potentially be excluded from the meeting if you fail to comply;

- Any person whose behaviour threatens to disrupt orderly conduct will be asked to leave;
- Be aware that libellous comments against the council, individual Councillors or officers could result in legal action being taken against you;
- The recorded images must not be edited in a way in which there is a clear aim to distort the truth or misrepresent those taking part in the proceedings;
- Personal attacks of any kind or offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability status could also result in legal action being taken against you.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in the support and assistance of the Council in the recording of proceedings being withdrawn. The Council regards violation of any of the points above as a risk to the orderly conduct of a meeting. The Council therefore reserves the right to exclude any person from the current meeting and refuse entry to any further council meetings, where a breach of these requirements occurs. The Chair of the meeting will ensure that the meeting runs in an effective manner and has the power to ensure that the meeting is not disturbed through the use of flash photography, intrusive camera equipment or the person recording the meeting moving around the room.

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

If you require advice on declarations of interests, this can be obtained from:

- The Monitoring Officer;
- The Deputy Monitoring Officer; or
- The legal adviser to the meeting.

It is recommended that any advice be sought in advance of, rather than at, the meeting.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You will have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (*DPI) if it:

- Relates to your employment, sponsorship, contracts as well as wider financial interests and assets including land, property, licenses and corporate tenancies.
- Relates to an interest which you have registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to DPIs as being an interest of you, your spouse or civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse or civil partner.
- Relates to an interest which should be registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to DPIs, but you have not yet done so.

If you are present at any meeting of the Council and you have a DPI relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you **must**:

- Not seek to improperly influence decision-making on that matter;
- Make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent; and
- Leave the room whilst the matter is under consideration

You **must not**:

- Participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business; or
- Participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

If you have obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee prior to the matter being considered, then you should make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI and that you have obtained a dispensation. The dispensation granted will explain the extent to which you are able to participate.

Other Registrable Interests

You will have an 'Other Registrable Interest' (ORI) in a matter if it

- Relates to appointments made by the authority to any outside bodies, membership of: charities, trade unions,, lobbying or campaign groups, voluntary organisations in the borough or governorships at any educational institution within the borough.
- Relates to an interest which you have registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs as being an interest of you, your spouse or civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse or civil partner; or
- Relates to an interest which should be registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs, but you have not yet done so.

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which affects a body or organisation you have named in that part of the Register of Interests Form relating to ORIs, **you must** make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. **You may** speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Disclosure of Other Interests

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you **must** disclose the interest. **You may** speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which **affects** your financial interest or well-being, or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or wellbeing of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest, you **must** declare the interest. You **may** only speak on the matter if members of the public are able to speak. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or voting on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

In all cases, where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that the interest in question is a **sensitive interest**, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest itself.