

REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

TOPIC 4 – VIEWS ON CHANGES TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Responses are summarised under each question asked - differences reflect views expressed on different tables

Q.1 Do you support revisions to the code?

Councillors:

Support revisions to the Code but needs to be brief with practical guidance and examples

Go back to the previous Code

Clerks:

Yes

Q.2 On interests – was the old “Personal and Prejudicial “ test better?

Councillors:

No (N.B. only one table’s response is available on this point – this was the last exercise and note that for Q.1 there was the response suggesting to go back to the previous Code which contained this test).

Clerks:

- (1) Yes
- (2) none of us worked under the previous system
- (3) need to declare specifics

Q.3 What should “interests other than pecuniary interests “cover?

Councillors:

- (1) Declare affiliations – [but] materiality and proportionality (that person is not solely making the decision)
- (2) Declare person known and relationship
- (3) Chair to mention and remind [councillors of the need for consideration of interests] when discussing certain aspects

Clerks

- (1) Use of social media sites by councillors to comment on [as?] councillor views
- (2) Gifts
- (3) Associated contact with a councillor to be declared
- (4) Range of non-pecuniary personal interests such [as external ?] committees

Q.4 Should there be more specifics about behaviour?

Councillors:

Should be adhered to at all times

Clerks:

- (1) Yes (tables)
- (2) Expectations on role of Clerk and Councillor interaction

Q.5 If so, what?

Councillors:

No response given [– probably lack of time]

Clerks:

- (1) Less headstrong chairs and councillors
- (2) Adherence to rules
- (3) Protocols around the use of Councillor title – letters, e-mails and social media

NEXT STEPS

This summary is, initially, being circulated to attendees at the Forum to give them the opportunity to correct, clarify or add to any comments they were involved with making. Fully recognising that the workshops were very time-constrained, any other, new, comments that attendees wish they had made at the time will be welcomed. The comments will all be taken into account in moving forward on revising the Code.