

## **APPENDIX B**

### Summary of Changes to the Code of Conduct

1. The anti-discrimination provision has been re-cast as an obligation not to do anything which would cause the authority to be in breach of any equality legislation. (para 3 (2)(a)).
2. A specific prohibition against bullying has been added. Guidance will be issued by the Standards Board as to what constitutes bullying. (para 3 (2) (b)).
3. The absolute prohibition against disclosing confidential information no longer applies if the Member believes the disclosure to be reasonable and in the public interest and is also made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority the disclosure will no longer be in breach of the Code. Guidance will be issued by the Standards Board as to the interpretation of these requirements. (para 4 (a)(iv)).
4. The provision whereby a Members is precluded from using his position improperly to confer an advantage on any person has been extended to include conduct which amounts to an attempt to do so. (para 6 (a)).
5. Members are no longer required by the Code to make allegations of failure to comply with Code against other Members.
6. The receipt of gifts or hospitality of over £25 in value is now included as an interest which should be registered as a personal interest. (para 8 (1)(a)(viii)).
7. Personal interests have always included the interests of relevant persons. The definition of relevant person has been extended to include a person with whom the Member has a close personal association. In this context family members are no longer specifically identified. (para 8 (2)(a)).
8. A personal interest now only arises where the interest might reasonably be regarded as affecting the Member to a greater extent than the majority of other ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward or division which is affected by the particular matter. The former criteria related to the taxpayers or inhabitants of the authority's area. (para 8 (1)(b)).
9. Paragraph 10(2) of the Code specifies instances where a Member does not have a prejudicial interest. Generally a Member will not have a prejudicial interest where the matter does not affect the financial position of the Member or a body of which they are a Member or does not

involve the grant of any permission or consent. Nor will a prejudicial interest arise where the matter relates to certain specified functions of the authority.

- 10.** A Member with a prejudicial interest may now attend a meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose. The member must withdraw from the room as soon as the representations have been made. (para 12 (2)).
- 11.** Sensitive information need not be made public in the register of interests if to do so would threaten the safety of the Member and/or his/her family and the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that this is the case. (para 14).