

# OFFICERS CODE OF CONDUCT

## 1. Introduction

Council workers are delivering a service to the public using tax payers' money, and as such the council expects these staff to exhibit exemplary standards of behaviour. Without exception, they must behave with integrity and demonstrate an honest, open and transparent attitude to their work. Where a worker believes there is or may be a conflict of interest affecting their ability to work in this way, the expectation is that they will declare this potential conflict in a timely manner, and before it comes to light by some other means. Failure to make a declaration where there is subsequently discovered to be grounds for doing so, may be treated as a disciplinary issue.

When acting as a council officer you must be committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for the borough's residents and maintain public confidence in this authority:-

**SELFLESSNESS:** Officers should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

**INTEGRITY:** Officers should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

**OBJECTIVITY:** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, Officers should make choices on merit.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Officers are accountable to their line manager and the Chief Executive who is in turn accountable to elected Members.

**OPENNESS:** Officers should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

**HONESTY:** Officers have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

**LEADERSHIP:** Officers should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

In addition to the duties of their post, Council workers have an obligation to comply with statutory duties as set out by the Information Commissioner's Office, and the Equality Act 2010.

- 1.1. The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (the Green Book) and the Constitution Salaries Conditions of Service (Joint Negotiating

Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities) says: “Employees will maintain conduct of the highest standards that public confidence in their integrity is sustained. Local codes of practice will be developed to cover the official conduct and the obligations of employees and employers.”

- 1.2. This Code of Conduct applies to all employees and workers under a contract with the council. Governing bodies of non-community schools and partner organisations in receipt of public funds should be encouraged to adopt this Code of Conduct.

## **2. Standards**

- 2.1. Council workers are expected to give the highest possible standard of service to the public, and to provide appropriate advice to Councillors and fellow workers with impartiality. They will be expected to raise matters without fear of recrimination to their manager or Senior manager or if they do not wish to do that, to bring it to the attention of the Chief Executive or make a report via the whistle blowing policy. In the event that the matter relates to the Chief Executive it should be raised with the Council’s Monitoring Officer.

## **3. Council Information**

- 3.1. London Borough of Barnet (LBB) policies on information management and security can be found in the employee handbook. These policies outline responsibilities for the management and security of Barnet Council information. It is a condition of employment at Barnet Council that staff work at all times in accordance with these policies. The policies may be amended and added to from time to time and the intranet site will show the most recent policies which staff must observe.
- 3.2. Line managers are responsible for ensuring that staff are supported in complying with council information management (IM) policies and staff should identify to their line manager any concerns that prevent compliance with the policies. The Council will consider very seriously any alleged breaches of these policies which may be dealt with under the Council’s Disciplinary Procedure.
- 3.3. It is generally accepted that open and transparent government is best. The law requires that certain types of information must be available to members, auditors, government departments, service users and the public. The authority itself may decide to be open about other types of information. Staff must be aware of the authority’s policies and of their duties in relation to the handling of both personally and commercially sensitive information. If in doubt guidance should be sought from management before information is disclosed.
- 3.4. The Council has a process for dealing with information requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Policy, Media Request Protocol and FOI Staff Guidance is published on the intranet. All requests made under the FOI legislation must be passed to the FOI team where they will be logged and tracked. Each directorate has an FOI Link

Officer responsible for co-ordinating responses and ensuring that the directorate is compliant.

- 3.5. Staff should not use any information obtained in the course of their employment that is not in the public domain for personal gain or benefit, nor should they pass it on to others who might use it in such a way.
- 3.6. Information received by an employee from a Councillor which is personal to that Councillor and does not belong to the Authority should not be divulged by the employee without the prior approval of that Councillor, except where such disclosure is required or sanctioned by the law.

#### **4. Political neutrality**

- 4.1. Staff must conduct their council duties in a politically neutral manner without regard to their personal political persuasions.
- 4.2. They must serve all Councillors and not just those of the controlling group, and must ensure that the individual views of all Councillors are respected.
- 4.3. Subject to the authority's conventions, staff may also be required to advise political groups, in ways which do not compromise their political neutrality.
- 4.4. The Council maintains a list of politically restricted posts. Holders of posts designated politically restricted will have this stated in their contract. They have limitations placed upon them in terms of active membership of political parties or holders of office within them. They are restricted to bare membership of a political party without playing any active role within the party or undertaking any canvassing.
- 4.5. Staff, whether or not politically restricted, must follow every lawful expressed policy of the authority, regardless of their personal or political opinions.

#### **5. Relationships**

##### **5.1. Councillors**

Staff are responsible to the authority through its senior managers. For some, their role is to give advice to Councillors and senior managers and all are there to carry out the authority's work. Mutual respect between staff and Councillors is essential to good local government. Close personal familiarity between staff and individual Councillors can damage the relationship and prove embarrassing to other staff and Councillors and should therefore be avoided. The Council has protocols and etiquette around working with Councillors and managers should ensure new recruits are aware of these.

##### **5.2. The Local Community and Service Users**

Staff should always remember their responsibilities to the community they serve and ensure courteous, efficient and impartial service delivery to all groups and individuals within that community as defined by the policies of the authority.

5.3. Contractors

All relationships of a business or private nature with external contractors, or potential contractors, should be made known to the appropriate manager. Orders and contracts must be awarded on merit, by fair competition against tenders and no special favour should be shown to businesses run by, for example, friends, partners or relatives in the tendering process. No part of the local community should be discriminated against.

5.4. Soliciting or being solicited for employment

Where Council staff engage in discussions about future employment with any organisation, contractor or partner with whom the council either has a contractual relationship or is in the negotiation stages of a possible contractual arrangement then this must be declared prior to being developed further to: the Head of Service or Chief Officer as appropriate, or Chief Executive where the person is themselves a Head of Service or Chief Officer. The Council reserves the right to temporarily redeploy staff to a suitable alternative post where such discussions are taking place.

5.5. Managers will make a note of relationships and personal interests, declared to them by staff, any risks identified and the mitigating action taken and send this note to Human Resources who will keep this information on the employee's personal file.

**6. Recruitment, Employment and Promotion of Relatives**

6.1. Staff involved in all types of recruitment, whether to permanent, or fixed term roles, should ensure that these selection decisions are made on merit. It would be unlawful for an employee to make an appointment or promotion which was based on anything other than the ability of the candidate to undertake the duties of the post.

6.2. In order to avoid any possible accusation of bias, the Council has agreed a policy on the Recruitment and Employment of Relatives which forms part of the Recruitment and Selection Guidelines. The aim of the guidelines is to ensure that high standards of conduct and good practice are maintained in the management of staff and working relationships across the Authority. It has been drawn up with due regard to the Council's Equal Opportunities Employment Policy. This policy applies to the recruitment, selection, appointment and promotion of "close relatives" of existing staff or in cases where two workers become "close relatives", e.g., marry, commit in the form of a Civil Partnership, or co-habit as partners.

6.3. The Council recognises that some people meet their partner at work. However, in circumstances where a relationship develops with a colleague who works in close proximity and in particular where a couple are in a line management relationship, care must be taken that there is no unfair advantage or opportunity afforded. In these circumstances, the relationship must be declared to the Head of Service or Chief Officer as appropriate, and a decision will be made about the risk to the organisation and the possibility of redeployment of one individual.

- 6.4. The definition of “close relative” for the purposes of this policy statement includes spouse, partner, close family members, e.g., mother, father, sister, brother, offspring (whether child or adult) and other persons with whom there is a close personal relationship. Management discretion should be applied when considering extended family and also situations where one party would have a vested interest in the appointment of the other.
- 6.5. In the interests of the Council’s service provision and for reasons of public confidence, the Council shall not allow an Officer to be involved in the recruitment, selection, promotion or appointment in the circumstances where the parties have a relationship as defined above. The recruiting manager will make a note of any declared relationship, the risks identified and mitigation of those risks (alternative panel member etc) and place this with the recruitment papers of the individual concerned.
- 6.6. In addition, it follows that this policy should be extended to all personnel-related matters and that any direct involvement in staffing matters relating to a close relative is also unacceptable e.g. disciplinary, grievance and grading, etc.
- 6.7. Similar standards should be applied to the selection and appointment to interim, agency, contractor or consultancy opportunities. The award of contracts should follow a transparent process as set out in the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Code of Practice.

## **7. Additional Employment**

- 7.1. Staff should be clear about their contractual obligations and should not take outside employment or engage in any business which conflicts with the authority’s interests. Staff must not seek to benefit personally by using experience, training or materials gained through their employment with the council to seek or accept work with Barnet’s contractors, suppliers or partners.
- 7.2. Staff must not use the Council’s contacts and suppliers in order to set up a venture on their own account, in competition with or to the detriment of the Council.
- 7.3. Current policy in Barnet (but subject to each individual case being considered on its merits and in accordance with the Council’s personnel procedures), states that in order to avoid any conflict of interests, all staff involved in any proposed Management Buy Out be given unpaid leave of absence pending a conclusion or, if directly involved in negotiating the buy out, be asked to resign from the Council’s service.
- 7.4. Staff must not take up any other employment or engage in any business without written approval.

- 7.5. Approval to undertake additional employment or engage in any business will depend on the circumstances of the Officer's particular situation. Any additional employment must not in the view of the Authority be likely to conflict with or be detrimental to the Authority's interests or in any way weaken public confidence in the conduct of the Authority's business. Situations where staff fail to seek permission or disclose details of their additional employment will be dealt with under the Council's Disciplinary Rules and Procedure and could result in the employee's dismissal for gross misconduct.
- 7.6. Assistant Directors (ADs) and above are empowered to decide whether officers should be permitted to take up part-time employment or engage in any business in addition to their full or part-time appointment with the council. The decision in this respect should be communicated in writing to the employee concerned. A copy must be placed in their personal file. Requests from AD and above should be referred to the Chief Executive for a decision.
- 7.7. With regard to holders of job share or part-time posts, each case will be looked at on an individual basis by the AD or Chief Executive as appropriate.
- 7.8. Where in doubt, staff should seek advice from their AD.

## **8. Intellectual property**

- 8.1. Intellectual property is a generic term that includes inventions, applications, programmes, creative writings and drawings. If these are created by the employee during the course of employment, then as a general rule they belong to the employer. However, various Acts of Parliament cover different types of intellectual property.
- 8.2. Inventions and Patents  
Inventions made before 1st June 1978 are the property of the employer if made in the course of that employer's employment. However, the Patents Act 1977 states that after the 1st June 1978 inventions are only the property of the employer if: they have been made in the course of the employee's normal duties; or they have been made in the course of duties specifically assigned to the employee and where invention might reasonably be expected; or it was made in the course of the employee's duties and at the time the employee had (because of the nature of his or her duties and particular responsibilities arising from them) a special obligation to further the interests of the employer.

## **9. Conflict of interest**

- 9.1. Staff must declare any non-financial interests that they consider could bring about conflict with the authority's interests e.g. involvement with an organisation or pressure group which may seek to influence their authority's policies or acting as a School Governor within schools maintained by the authority.
- 9.2. Where a worker believes there is or may be a conflict of interest affecting their ability to work in this way, the expectation is that they will declare this



potential conflict in a timely manner, and before it comes to light by some other means. Failure to make a declaration where there is subsequently discovered to be grounds for doing so, will be treated as a disciplinary issue.

- 9.3. Further guidance notes will be issued with the declaration form that will be used to declare interests, to distinguish the types of membership of groups that require to be declared. It is not intended for staff to declare membership of legitimate political parties or Trade Unions.
- 9.4. Any interests, financial or otherwise which could conflict with the authority's interests must be declared e.g. involvement with an organisation applying for or receiving grant aid from the authority, or involvement with an organisation that is seeking to contract with the council or is already a contractor or client. It is accepted that some staff may be members of organisations and groups and have no active involvement in the group. However, there is an expectation that where an employee is involved in the running of the group or organisation, has a financial interest or otherwise, or is involved as a Committee member, or in the decision making process, that this would be declared. Likewise those who are asked to undertake work in response to a request from a group or organisation of which they are a member would be wise to declare their membership.
- 9.5. Staff must declare membership of any organisation not open to the public without formal membership and commitment of allegiance and which has secrecy about rules, membership or conduct.
- 9.6. The completed declaration of interest form will be reviewed by an appropriate AD to consider any action that may be necessary before being placed on the employee's personal file.
- 9.7. The declaration of interest is not a historical document to reflect the situation at time of entry to the Council's employment, rather an evolving document that must be kept up-to-date. It is the responsibility of the employee to ensure that as their circumstances change during the time of their employment that they keep their declaration up-to-date. Should an employee need to amend or review a declaration they must contact Human Resources and complete a new declaration and send this to the appropriate AD for review before it is placed on personal files.
- 9.8. Declaration forms are securely stored and would not be open for inspection to staff, other than by their Senior Managers (at AD level) or HR. These managers /HR may need to check declaration forms should either membership of an organisation or pressure group emerge or, should there be suspicion that a relationship has emerged which was relevant to the staff member's duties and is contrary to the Code of Conduct. FOI requests relating to such information would be redacted to ensure identifying information is excluded.
- 9.9. Any member of staff who is in any doubt as to whether or not specific outside interest exists and should be declared should contact their AD for guidance.

- 9.10 At the start of each procurement exercise, all staff must complete a new procurement declaration of interest form which must then be stored with the Service's Scheme of Delegation for Audit purposes. This completed form will also be reviewed by an appropriate AD to consider any action that may be necessary. Failure to make a declaration where there is subsequently discovered to be grounds for doing so, will be treated as a disciplinary issue and a potential breach of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

## **10. Workers and Residents**

- 10.1. In circumstances, where an LBB worker who is also a resident of LBB wishes to make an opinion about the policies being followed by the Council then such expressions of opinion must make clear that the person concerned is expressing an opinion as a resident of LBB and not as a Council worker.
- 10.2. The worker must ensure that they do not divulge any information that is not already in the public domain.
- 10.3. Where opinions are expressed on TV, film, website, social networking site or in photographs, the worker must not wear any badges or clothing which would readily identify the individual as a worker at the Council.
- 10.4. Should a worker express an opinion without making clear that he or she is making that opinion as a resident of LBB or he or she is wearing badges or clothing that readily identifies the individual as a worker at the Council, he or she may be subject to a disciplinary process.
- 10.5. Council staff who are Trade Union officials must not make statements about Council business without making it clear that this is in their official union capacity in accordance with agreed working protocols.

## **11. Equal Opportunities in Employment**

- 11.1 Barnet Council already has an existing policy on and is committed to equal opportunities. The aim of the Council's policy is to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, sex, sexuality, disability, marital status, nationality, colour, race, religion or ethnic origins. Selection criteria and employment policies and procedures will be kept under review to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted, trained and treated on the basis solely of their relevant and relative merits, abilities, training and potential.
- 11.2 All staff should ensure that policies relating to equality issues as agreed by the authority are complied with in addition to the requirements of the law. All members of the local community, customers and other employees and workers have a right to be treated with fairness and equity.

## **12. Separation of Roles During Tendering**



- 12.1 Staff involved in the tendering process and dealing with contractors should be clear on the separation of client and contractor roles within the authority. Senior staff who have both a client and contractor responsibility must be aware of the need to demonstrate accountability and openness.
- 12.2 Staff in contractor or client units must exercise fairness and impartiality when dealing with all customers, suppliers other contractors and sub contractors.
- 12.3 Staff who are privy to confidential information on tenders or costs for either internal or external contractors should not disclose that information to any unauthorised third party or organisation.
- 12.4 Staff should ensure that no special favour is shown to current or recent employees and workers or their partners, close relatives or associates in awarding contracts to businesses.

### **13. Use of Financial Resources**

- 13.1 Staff must ensure that they use public funds entrusted to them in a responsible and lawful manner. They should strive to ensure value for money to the local community and to avoid legal challenge to the authority.
- 13.2 In addition, staff must consider financial matters solely with regard to the public interest and in accordance with the council's financial regulations.

### **14. Corruption**

- 14.1 It is a serious criminal offence in an official capacity, to corruptly receive or give any gift, loan, fee, reward or advantage for doing, or not doing, anything, or showing favour or disfavour, to any person, group or organisation. If it is proved that some kind of reward was given to or received by the employee, then the onus is on the staff member to disprove corruption.

### **15. Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship**

- 15.1 In the course of their work for or on behalf of the Council, staff may be offered gifts, hospitality or sponsorship by contractors, consultants, clients or other members of the public. In some instances, accepting such gifts could place staff in a serious predicament, open to allegations of bribery and corruption, disciplinary proceedings and or criminal investigation.
- 15.2 These guidelines are designed to protect workers from such allegations, proceedings or investigations. It is essential that workers are open, and not secretive in their relationships with outside agencies and at all times act in a manner that will protect the integrity and reputation of the Council. Under no circumstances should gifts, hospitality or sponsorship be accepted to give personal, commercial, regulatory or contractual advantage (acceptance of bribes). All workers are required to have an understanding and awareness of the Counter Fraud Framework – Bribery Policy Statement and Procedure.

- 15.3 Accepting bribes is a matter to be investigated by the Corporate Anti Fraud Team (CAFT) and could result in prosecution.
- 15.4 Any gift, hospitality or sponsorship that is offered in connection with work undertaken for the Council (whether accepted or not) must be recorded in writing, immediately on receipt, or offer, on the Hospitality, Gifts and Sponsorship Declaration Form. For the avoidance of doubt, it is required to fully complete the declaration form on each and every occasion that an offer of a gift, hospitality or sponsorship is made, unless there is an exemption for gifts, etc. below a specified value threshold.
- 15.5 After completion, the declaration form must then be passed immediately to the line manager. Once the line manager has completed their section they should then immediately pass the declaration form to the Council's Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer will consider if further action is appropriate. The Monitoring Officer will then pass the declaration form to a Governance Officer for inclusion in the central register recording receipt/offers of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship to Council officers. In the interests of transparency the Council may publish the "gifts hospitality and sponsorship" register, but will delete personal data, where it is appropriate to do so.
- 15.6 **Minor gifts/hospitality under £25**, e.g. calendars, diaries, stationery items, need not be recorded. The same applies to the receipt of minor hospitality e.g. tea and biscuits. Where unsolicited gifts, with a value of less than £25, such as a bottle of wine, food, confectionery, etc are offered, these can be accepted, and if not capable of sharing with colleagues, residents/users (e.g. of a social services' establishment), they may be kept for personal use or donated to the Mayor's charity. Staff should declare multiple gifts received (in a period of 12 months) from the same donator/company whether or not they exceed £25.
- 15.7 **Gifts of higher value**, e.g. cases of spirits, clothes, jewellery, holiday bookings, holiday discounts and electrical equipment, must not be accepted and, if received, should be returned to the sender, but must still be recorded on the declaration form as having been received and returned unused or as directed by the Assurance Assistant Director (to whom such gifts must be separately reported by you).
- 15.8 **Cash, Cheques, Money Orders**, or any monetary form offered to or received as a gift or otherwise must not be accepted, under any circumstance, and any such offers must still be recorded on the declaration form as having been received and returned unused or as directed by the Assurance Assistant Director (to whom such offer or receipt must be separately reported by you)
- 15.9 **Discounts**, It is not permitted, on a personal basis, to take advantage of discounts which have been offered or negotiated by the Council with its suppliers for the purchase of goods, materials or services, unless the discount has been negotiated specifically as a benefit available to all staff or to a specific group of staff (of which the individual claiming the discount is a member).

- 15.10 **Hospitality**, The Council recognises that from time to time there is a need for certain officers to attend business functions where they may receive hospitality in the form of light refreshments, drinks and/or meals. Such hospitality may be accepted when provided in the course of normal business - e.g. lunch at a contractor's expense during a business meeting or function, provided that it is recorded in the gifts, hospitality and sponsorship register (subject to the exemption for minor hospitality previously referred to). ~~If the offer of alcohol is accepted, vehicles must not be driven until an appropriate time has elapsed for the alcohol to have left the system.~~ Individuals should consider whether the acceptance of hospitality could affect or may reasonably be perceived as likely to affect the outcome of a business transaction involving the Council or may otherwise be reasonably perceived as not appropriate and/or not bona fide expenditure.
- 15.11 **Prestige Events**, Invitations to prestige events, such as Wimbledon and Royal Ascot and other events such as football matches, theatre, opera, or weekend breaks must not be accepted, and offers must be recorded on the declaration form. Consideration may be given to attendance at certain events if that attendance is in connection with the business purposes or otherwise in the interests of the Council, but authorisation must be obtained from your line manager and approved by the Monitoring Officer before any attendance and this must be recorded on the declaration form.
- 15.12 **Sponsorship**, Attendance at sponsored conferences and other business related events would be permissible provided that such attendance is either necessary for the business purposes or otherwise in the interests of the Council or it is normal practice for officers in local authorities or other public bodies to attend. Attendance must be recorded on the declaration form.
- 15.13 **Council workers providing personal care**, such as Care Workers, Home Helps and Wardens of sheltered housing accommodation can sometimes be offered jewellery, money or other gifts, or bequests of substantial value by clients. There are special considerations when dealing with elderly, confused or otherwise vulnerable clients, as accepting such gifts may place staff in a vulnerable position. Any such offers from clients, or their relatives, friends or other members of the public, must be reported immediately to the line manager. Where-ever possible gifts from clients should be refused, and they may only be accepted if to refuse would give offence, they are under the value of £25, a declaration form has been completed (even though below the normal value threshold) and with the prior consent of the employee's line manager and the Monitoring Officer.
- 15.14 There are certain groups of employee (e.g. Refuse Officers, Enforcement Officers, Purchasing/Procurement Officers, Planners, Major Programme/Project leads) for whom it would be inappropriate to receive any gifts or hospitality in view of the nature of their work. Holders of these roles will be notified by their Assistant Director (or other appropriate senior officer) of any additional rules which apply.
- 15.15 **No gifts or hospitality are to be accepted from contractors who are considering or submitting a tender during a tendering period.**

- 15.16 Records may be subject to inspection.
- 15.17 Failure to adhere to this code of practice will be regarded as gross misconduct and could lead to dismissal.

## **16. Sponsorship – Giving and Receiving**

- 16.1 Where an outside organisation wishes to sponsor a local government activity, whether by invitation, tender, negotiation or voluntarily, the basic conventions concerning acceptance of gifts or hospitality apply. Particular care must be taken when dealing with contractors or potential contractors.
- 16.2 Where the authority wishes to sponsor an event or service, neither an employee nor any partner, spouse or relative must benefit from such sponsorship in a direct way without there being full disclosure to an appropriate manager of any such interest. Similarly, where the authority through sponsorship, grant aid, financial or other means, gives support in the community, staff should ensure that impartial advice is given and that there is no conflict of interest involved.

## **17. Use of Internet, Intranet and e-mail facilities**

- 17.1 The Council's electronic assets, including PC/laptop/phone, e-mail, Internet web access and Intranet facilities are provided to assist Council business and are not intended for personal use. (See the Information Governance (IG) policies and procedures for detailed guidance).
- 17.2 Accessing, storing or transmitting offensive material via e-mail, the Internet or the Intranet is expressly prohibited. Offensive material includes, but is not limited to, pornographic, racist, terrorist and sexist material.
- 17.3 The usage of web and e-mail addresses will be logged and audited on a regular basis. Any apparent misuse of these facilities may lead to disciplinary action being considered.
- 17.4 Up-to-date information on the Council's Acceptable Use Policy is available on the Internet and should be regularly reviewed by users of the Council's Internet and Intranet facilities.
- 17.5 Social Media - It is not acceptable for workers of the Council to make use of social media to post opinions, write blogs, tweet (or equivalent) about Council business unless in an authorised capacity on an official Barnet internet site, blog or twitter account. Staff who are residents must make it clear through their communication and dress that views being expressed are personal and do not reflect those of the Council. Failure to comply with this, with the result that the Council is or could be brought into disrepute, could result in disciplinary action.
- 17.6 It is not permitted for Council workers to provide information to third party authors of blogs or online content about the Council. In cases where it is

discovered that confidential information has entered the public domain, the Council will investigate and may use forensic electronic methods to discover the source.

## **18. Application of the Code of Conduct**

- 18.1 There will be specific mention of the Code of Conduct in the contract of employment for new starters and that they could be required to declare interests after the selection process but before taking up their posts.
- 18.2 Any apparent breaches of this Code of Conduct will be fully investigated by the appropriate manager and any proceedings would follow the normal disciplinary procedures of the Council and in serious cases could also result in prosecution.

## **19. Guidance to staff entering premises where an adult is not present**

- 19.1 It is Council policy that when visiting a child, an adult must be present. When making appointments, always make it clear that an adult must be present when the visit takes place.
- 19.2 Where a visit takes place and it is still found that a child below the age of 16 is alone and showing obvious signs of distress, call the police immediately using 999 and report the circumstances. Stay with the child while waiting for the police and then hand over responsibility. Ensure you inform your manager and record your actions.
- 19.3 Staff have a duty to report any concerns they may have in relation to the safety and protection of unsupervised children they may come across in the course of their work.

## **20. Criminal Offences**

- 20.1 It is a condition of employment that you advise the Chief Executive immediately if you are charged, cautioned or convicted of a criminal offence, including offences against children. Personal information which you supplied to the Council will be stored on computer systems and will, therefore be subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

## **21. Fraud**

- 21.1 The Council is under a duty to protect public funds it administers. To this end any information which the Council obtains as a consequence of your employment may be used for the detection of fraud. The information may, where necessary, be used by the council and provided to other bodies administering public funds for the detection of fraud.

## **22. Restraint of Trade – HAY Graded Staff**

22.1 The Council reserves the right to take action where an individual's actions or employment on leaving are detrimental to its interests



## APPENDIX- HOSPITALITY, GIFTS AND SPONSORSHIP DECLARATION FORM (Page 1 of 2)

NB this will be an online process

Date hospitality, gift or sponsorship offered/received:	
Name of person offered/receiving the hospitality, gift or sponsorship:	
Work address:	
Directorate:	
Hospitality, gift or sponsorship received from:	
Details of hospitality, gift or sponsorship offered/received:	
Approximate value of hospitality, gift or sponsorship offered/received:	£
<p><b>Declaration:</b> <i>(please delete as appropriate)</i></p> <p>1. The hospitality, gift or sponsorship was offered but was declined.</p> <p>2. I declare that the gift/hospitality/sponsorship has been/will be accepted and is entirely consistent with the requirements of the Council's Code of Practice on Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship and that no business decisions have or will be influenced by the acceptance and that no advancements or personal gain have been or will be obtained.</p> <p>I confirm that I have read and understand the Code of Practice on Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship and the Bribery Policy Statement and Procedure – Counter Fraud Framework and have made all necessary declarations during the last year.</p>	
Print Name:	
<b>Signed and dated:</b>	
(If the declaration is made <b>by e-mail</b> , state by e-mail in the signature box above)	

**HOSPITALITY, GIFTS AND SPONSORSHIP DECLARATION FORM**  
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<p><b>Managers Statement:</b></p>	<p>I confirm that I have been made aware of the stated hospitality, gift or sponsorship that has been offered to or received by the above named member of staff for whom I have line management responsibility. I consider the action taken by the member of staff to be reasonable and it has my approval/ I have taken the following action with regard to the matter:</p>
<p>Print Name:</p>	
<p>Signed and Dated:</p>	
<p><b>Monitoring Officer statement:</b></p>	<p>I confirm that I have been made aware of the stated hospitality, gift or sponsorship that has been offered to or received by the above named member of staff. I have taken account of the line manager's comments. I consider the action taken by the member of staff to be reasonable and it has my approval / I have taken the following action with regard to the matter:</p>
<p>Print Name:</p>	
<p>Signed and dated:</p>	

To be completed by Governance Officer as confirmation of inclusion in register

<p>Print Name</p>	
<p>Signed and dated.</p>	