

Guidance on Declaring Interests

- 1.1 The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 requires a forum member who is directly or indirectly interested in any matter brought up for consideration by the forum, to disclose the nature of that interest to the meeting. A direct or indirect interest might reasonably be regarded as one which:-

“might affect a member’s wellbeing, financial position, or business (which would be a ‘direct’ interest, as it impacts on the member directly), or that of a relative or friend (which would be an ‘indirect’ interest) to a greater extent than that of other council tax payers, ratepayers or other inhabitants of the area.”

- 1.2 The Regulations do not prohibit a forum member with a direct/indirect interest from participating in the discussion (indeed, they might have a useful contribution to make), but the secretary should record all declared interests in the minutes of the meeting. An appointing authority is entitled to terminate the appointment of any member who fails to disclose a direct or indirect interest in a matter that is before the forum.
- 1.3 If a member is in doubt as to whether they could be regarded as having a direct or indirect interest in a matter, it is recommended they should err on the side of caution and disclose the nature of the interest accordingly.