



Meeting of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board	
Held on	16 March 2022	
Agenda Item		
Title	East Renfrewshire IJB Code of Conduct	
Summary		
<p>To submit for consideration a new Code of Conduct specific to the IJB. The new Code of Conduct has been based on the new Model Code for Members of Devolved Public Bodies approved by the Scottish Parliament.</p>		
Presented by	Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager, East Renfrewshire Council	
Action Required		
<p>It is recommended that the new Code of Conduct for Members of the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board be adopted and submitted to Scottish Ministers for final approval.</p>		
Directions	Implications	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Directions Required <input type="checkbox"/> Directions to East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) <input type="checkbox"/> Directions to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) <input type="checkbox"/> Directions to both ERC and NHSGGC	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce <input type="checkbox"/> Equalities <input type="checkbox"/> Risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Fairer Scotland Duty	

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

16 March 2022

Report by Chief Officer

EAST RENFREWSHIRE IJB CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek the adoption of a new Code of Conduct for members of the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the IJB agree:-

- (a) to adopt the Code of Conduct for Members of the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board; subject to determining whether or not to apply the provisions of Paragraph 3.11 in relation to collective decision-making and corporate responsibility; and
- (b) that the Code as adopted be sent to Scottish Ministers for approval.

BACKGROUND

3. In June 2016 the IJB adopted a Code of Conduct for Members. The Code was based on the Model Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies in place at that time. Following adoption by the IJB, the East Renfrewshire Code was submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval, which was given on 21 June 2016.

REPORT

4. The Standards Commission for Scotland has reviewed and revised both the Code of Conduct for Councillors and the Model Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies with both the Councillors' Code and Model Code having been approved by the Scottish Parliament in December 2021. A copy of the Model Code was circulated to Board Members in December.

5. Scottish Ministers have now written to the Chair asking the IJB to adopt the revised Code.

6. A copy of the draft Code, with minor textual alterations to reflect that it is the Code for the East Renfrewshire IJB, is attached (Appendix 1). To allow comparison, a copy of the current Code is also attached (Appendix 2).

Key Changes

7. There have been changes to all 6 sections of the Code and these are summarised below. General changes to the Code are:-

- Provisions are now written in plain English wherever possible, to make it more understandable and accessible.

- Most of the factual background information, guidance and reasoning has been removed (and will now be in the Standards Commission's Guidance). This is to make Code more concise and to avoid repetition.
- The provisions are now in the first person – for example, “I will” or “I won't” do something. The aim is to encourage ownership and engagement.

Section 1 – Introduction

8. The introduction section emphasises that it is a Member's personal responsibility to be familiar and to comply with the provisions of the IJB's Code, the law and rules, standing orders and regulations. It provides that Members will not, at any time, advocate or encourage any action that is contrary to the Code.

9. This section provides more information about when the Code will apply. As before, the Code does not apply to a Member's private and family life. In considering whether the Code applies, the Standards Commission will consider whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably consider that the individual was acting as a member of their public body at the time of the events in question. It should be noted that this can include when they are engaging in online activity.

10. The Guidance on the Code notes that it can be very difficult to persuade people that a member can take a different view, or even have an open mind, in their capacity as a Member of a public body from any view they may have expressed in their personal capacity. This is particularly pertinent in respect of using social media, where the separation of public and private comments may be unclear to someone reading them, and where information about the membership of the public body may be readily available online or from different sources (including the public body's website).

11. The Code does not prevent a Member from expressing views (including making political comment) provided they do so in a way that is compatible with the substantive provisions of the Code, being Sections 3 to 6 inclusive. This includes the requirements to behave with courtesy and respect and to maintain confidentiality.

Section 2 – Key Principles of the Code

12. This section now states that a breach of one or more of the key principles does not in itself constitute evidence of a breach of the Code. However, the key principles can be used by the Ethical Standards Commissioner's office (in its investigatory role) and the Standards Commission (in its adjudicatory role) to assist with interpretation of alleged breaches of the substantive sections of the Code.

Section 3 – General Conduct

13. Section 3 of the Code makes clear that Members are required to treat everyone with courtesy and respect. This includes in person, in writing, at meetings, when online and when using social media. New paragraph 3.2, provides that Members must not discriminate unlawfully and should advance equality of opportunity.

14. The Code notes that disrespect, bullying and harassment can be:

- a) a one-off incident,
- b) part of a cumulative course of conduct;
- c) a pattern of behaviour; and
- d) physical, verbal and non-verbal conduct.

It notes that it is the impact of the behaviour, not the intent, that is the key.

15. The section also contains a number of new provisions. Firstly, Members will not undermine any individual employee or group of employees, or raise concerns about their performance, conduct or capability in public.

16. Secondly, Members will not take, or seek to take, unfair advantage of their position in their dealings with employees or bring any undue influence to bear on employees to take a certain action. The provision states they will not ask or direct employees to do something which they know, or should reasonably know, could compromise them or prevent them from undertaking their duties properly and appropriately.

17. The Code contains a further new provision noting that, except where it is written their role and/or at the invitation of the Chief Officer, Members will not become involved in operational management. The provision acknowledges that operational management is the responsibility of the Chief Officer and Executive Team.

18. The Code allows Members to seek information about specific matters, cases or a particular item of work but notes that, in doing so, they should be aware that employees may feel pressured by a Member challenging their actions or appearing critical of some aspect of their work.

19. There is a new provision (paragraph 3.11) stating that Members must respect the principle of collective decision-making and corporate responsibility. This means that once the Board has made a decision, they are to support that decision, even if they did not agree with it or vote for it. If a Member fundamentally disagrees with the decision taken by their board, then they have the option of recording their concerns in the minutes of the board meeting. If they remain discontented, they can ask the Chair of the board for a meeting to discuss their concerns. Ultimately, though, if a Member's concerns are not resolved and they cannot accept and support the collective decision of the board, they will need to consider whether it is appropriate to resign. The requirement to respect the principle of collective decision-making and corporate responsibility does not prevent a board from making a subsequent formal decision to alter, delete or rescind a decision (although if the board does so, the principle will apply to the new or altered decision).

20. In relation to the paragraph on collective responsibility referred to above, in the letter to IJB Chairs, the Scottish Government have acknowledged this section is not relevant to how IJBs operate and to remedy this have proposed that the best way to resolve this point is by allowing IJBs to opt out of this paragraph when adopting their version of the Code. In considering the draft Code the IJB will therefore need to decide whether or not to include paragraph 3.11.

21. Changes have also been made in relation to gifts and hospitality. The changes are designed to avoid any perception that Members are using their role to obtain access to benefits that members of the public would otherwise be expected to pay for, and also to prevent them from being influenced (inadvertently or otherwise) into making decisions for reasons other than the public interest.

21. The Code makes it clear that the default position is Members should refuse all offers of gifts & hospitality, except in the very limited circumstances listed at paragraph 3.15 of the Code. It should be noted that acceptance can include accepting the *promise* of a gift or hospitality.

22. In relation to confidentiality, the Code has also been clarified to make it clear that confidential information is not just information deemed to be confidential by statute. It notes that such information can also include discussions, documents and information which is not yet public or which is never intended to be public.

23. The Code notes that Members should assume they cannot disclose confidential information, or information which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential or of a private nature, without the express consent of a person or body authorised to give

such consent. If a Member cannot obtain such express consent, they should assume it is not given.

24. Paragraph 3.24 of the Code states that Members are only to use confidential information to undertake their duties as a board member. They must not use it in any way for personal advantage or to discredit the IJB (even if they are of the view that the information should be publicly available).

Section 4 – Registration of Interests

25. Some minor changes have been made to the registration categories.

Category 1: Remuneration: Members are now required to register any work for which they receive, or expect to receive, payment or reward.

Category 2: In the previous version of the Code this category was entitled ‘unremunerated directorships’. The provisions under this category have been simplified and the category has been renamed ‘Other Roles’.

Category 3: Contracts. Only minor change to replace the word “consideration” with “value”.

Category 4: Election Expenses. This recognises that some members of devolved public bodies are elected. If so, they are required to register a description of, and statement of, any assistance towards election expenses relating to election to their public body. It is important to note that this is not about any election expenses associated with being elected as a councillor.

Category 5: Houses, Land & Buildings. The wording for this category has been clarified. The Code states that, when deciding whether or not they need to register any interest they have in houses, land or buildings, the test to be applied is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the Member’s interest as being so significant that it could potentially affect their responsibilities to their public body and to the public, or could influence their actions, speeches or decision-making.

Category 6: Interest in Shares and Securities. Provisions have been clarified and now state Members have a registrable interest where:

- a) They own or have an interest in more than 1% of the issued share capital of the company or body; or
- b) Where, at the relevant date, the market value of any shares and securities (in any one specific company or body) that they own or have an interest in is greater than £25,000.

‘Relevant date’ is defined in the ‘Definitions’ at Annex B as the date the member was appointed and the 5th of April in each succeeding year.

Category 7: Gifts & Hospitality. The Code now states that as members are no longer allowed to accept any gifts or hospitality (other than under very limited circumstances), there is no longer the need to register any.

Category 8: Non-Financial Interests. The objective test that applies to this category has been clarified. The Code states that non-financial interests are those which members of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, might reasonably think could influence the Member’s actions, speeches, votes or decision-making.

Category 9: Close Family Members. This is a new category under which Members are required to register the interests of any close family member who has transactions with their public body or is likely to have transactions or do business with it. This new provision is aimed at ensuring the public body complies with accounting standards.

Section 5 – Declarations of Interest

26. This section has been significantly revised with a new 3 stage process: Connection; Interest; Declaration; being introduced. The revised Section is intended to make it easier for Members to determine when they have a declarable interest. The introduction of first two stages is intended to help members distinguish between situations when they simply have a connection to a matter and ones where that connection could objectively be regarded as having the potential to influence them in their role as a member (where it would be a declarable interest).

27. The third stage makes it clear that members must leave room and cannot participate if they have identified that they have a declarable interest in a matter to be discussed.

Section 6 – Lobbying and Access

28. The provisions under section 6 on lobbying and access have been simplified. The Code now distinguishes lobbying from helping service users / members of the public and community engagement.

29. The Code explains that lobbying is where a Member is approached by an individual or organisation who is seeking to influence them for financial gain or advantage, particularly those who are seeking to do business with the member's public body (for example contracts/procurement).

30. The Code requires Members to have regard to the objective test in deciding whether, and if so, how to respond to such lobbying. This is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard their conduct in responding to the lobbying as being likely to influence their or the public body's decisions.

31. The Code prohibits Members from accepting any paid work:

- a) which would involve them lobbying on behalf of any person or organisation or any clients of a person or organisation.
- b) to provide services as a strategist, adviser or consultant, for example, advising on how to influence the public body and its Members.

32. This does not prohibit a Member from being remunerated for activity that may arise from their membership of the public body, such as journalism or broadcasting, or involvement in representative or presentational work, such as participation in delegations, conferences or other events.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE REPORT

Legal

33. The IJB is required to approve a new Code and submit it to Scottish Ministers for approval in terms of the relevant ethical standards legislation.

Other

34. There are no financial, human resources, property, IT, equalities or sustainability implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSIONS

35. Approval of the Code will ensure that the IJB complies with the legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

36. That the IJB agree:-

- (a) to adopt the Code of Conduct for Members of the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board; subject to determining whether or not to apply the provisions of Paragraph 3.11 in relation to collective decision-making and corporate responsibility; and
- (b) that the Code as adopted be sent to Scottish Ministers for approval.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Standing Orders for Integration Joint Board

Code of Conduct for Members of East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

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Section 1: Introduction To The Code Of Conduct

1.1 This Code has been based on the Model Code issued by the Scottish Ministers, with the approval of the Scottish Parliament, as required by the [Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2000 \(the “Act”\)](#).

1.2 The purpose of the Model Code is to set out the conduct expected of those who serve on the boards of public bodies in Scotland.

1.3 The Model Code on which this Code is based has been developed in line with the nine key principles of public life in Scotland. The principles are listed in [Section 2](#) and set out how the provisions of the Code should be interpreted and applied in practice.

My Responsibilities

1.4 I understand that the public has a high expectation of those who serve on the boards of public bodies and the way in which they should conduct themselves in undertaking their duties. I will always seek to meet those expectations by ensuring that I conduct myself in accordance with the Code.

1.5 I will comply with the substantive provisions of this Code, being sections 3 to 6 inclusive, in all situations and at all times where I am acting as a member of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), have referred to myself as a board member or could objectively be considered to be acting as a board member.

1.6 I will comply with the substantive provisions of this Code, being sections 3 to 6 inclusive, in all my dealings with the public, employees and fellow board members, whether formal or informal.

1.7 I understand that it is my personal responsibility to be familiar with the provisions of this Code and that I must also comply with the law and the IJB’s rules, standing orders and regulations. I will also ensure that I am familiar with any guidance or advice notes issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland (“Standards Commission”) and the IJB, and endeavour to take part in any training offered on the Code.

1.8 I will not, at any time, advocate or encourage any action contrary to this Code.

1.9 I understand that no written information, whether in the Code itself or the associated Guidance or Advice Notes issued by the Standards Commission, can provide for all circumstances. If I am uncertain about how the Code applies, I will seek advice from the Standards Officer, failing whom the Chief Officer of the IJB. I note that I may also choose to seek external legal advice on how to interpret the provisions of the Code.

Enforcement

1.10 [Part 2 of the Act](#) sets out the provisions for dealing with alleged breaches of the Code, including the sanctions that can be applied if the Standards Commission finds that there has been a breach of the Code. More information on how complaints are dealt with and the sanctions available can be found at [Annex A](#).

Section 2: Key Principles Of The Code Of Conduct

2.1 The Code has been based on the following key principles of public life. I will behave in accordance with these principles and understand that they should be used for guidance and interpreting the provisions in the Code.

2.2 I note that a breach of one or more of the key principles does not in itself amount to a breach of the Code. I note that, for a breach of the Code to be found, there must also be a contravention of one or more of the provisions in sections 3 to 6 inclusive of the Code.

The key principles are:

Duty

I have a duty to uphold the law and act in accordance with the law and the public trust placed in me. I have a duty to act in the interests of the IJB and in accordance with the core functions and duties of the IJB.

Selflessness

I have a duty to take decisions solely in terms of public interest. I must not act in order to gain financial or other material benefit for myself, family or friends.

Integrity

I must not place myself under any financial, or other, obligation to any individual or organisation that might reasonably be thought to influence me in the performance of my duties.

Objectivity

I must make decisions solely on merit and in a way that is consistent with the functions of the IJB when carrying out public business including making appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits.

Accountability and Stewardship

I am accountable to the public for my decisions and actions. I have a duty to consider issues on their merits, taking account of the views of others and I must ensure that the IJB uses its resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

Openness

I have a duty to be as open as possible about my decisions and actions, giving reasons for my decisions and restricting information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

I have a duty to act honestly. I must declare any private interests relating to my public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

I have a duty to promote and support these principles by leadership and example, and to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the IJB and its members in conducting public business.

Respect

I must respect all other IJB members and all employees of the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and the role they play, treating them with courtesy at all times. Similarly, I must respect members of the public when performing my duties as a board member.

Section 3: General Conduct

Respect and Courtesy

3.1 I will treat everyone with courtesy and respect. This includes in person, in writing, at meetings, when I am online and when I am using social media.

3.2 I will not discriminate unlawfully on the basis of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, religion or belief, marital status or pregnancy/maternity; I will advance equality of opportunity and seek to foster good relations between different people.

3.3 I will not engage in any conduct that could amount to bullying or harassment (which includes sexual harassment). I accept that such conduct is completely unacceptable and will be considered to be a breach of this Code.

3.4 I accept that disrespect, bullying and harassment can be:

- a) a one-off incident,
- b) part of a cumulative course of conduct; or
- c) a pattern of behaviour.

3.5 I understand that how, and in what context, I exhibit certain behaviours can be as important as what I communicate, given that disrespect, bullying and harassment can be physical, verbal and non-verbal conduct.

3.6 I accept that it is my responsibility to understand what constitutes bullying and harassment and I will use resources, including the Standards Commission's guidance and advice notes, the IJB's policies and training material (where appropriate) to ensure that my knowledge and understanding is up to date.

3.7 Except where it is written into my role as board member, and / or at the invitation of the Chief Officer, I will not become involved in operational management of the HSCP. I acknowledge and understand that operational management is the responsibility of the Chief Officer and Executive Team.

3.8 I will not undermine any individual employee or group of employees, or raise concerns about their performance, conduct or capability in public. I will raise any concerns I have on such matters in private with senior management as appropriate.

3.9 I will not take, or seek to take, unfair advantage of my position in my dealings with employees of the HSCP or bring any undue influence to bear on employees to take a certain action. I will not ask or direct employees to do something which I know, or should reasonably know, could compromise them or prevent them from undertaking their duties properly and appropriately.

3.10 I will respect and comply with rulings from the Chair during meetings of:

- a) the IJB, its committees; and
- b) any outside organisations that I have been appointed or nominated to by the IJB or on which I represent it.

3.11 I will respect the principle of collective decision-making and corporate responsibility. This means that once the IJB has made a decision, I will support that decision, even if I did not agree with it or vote for it.

Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses

3.12 I will comply with the rules, and the policies of the IJB, on the payment of remuneration, allowances and expenses.

Gifts and Hospitality

3.13 I understand that I may be offered gifts (including money raised via crowdfunding or sponsorship), hospitality, material benefits or services (“gift or hospitality”) that may be reasonably regarded by a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts as placing me under an improper obligation or being capable of influencing my judgement.

3.14 I will never **ask for** or **seek** any gift or hospitality.

3.15 I will refuse any gift or hospitality, unless it is:

- a) a minor item or token of modest intrinsic value offered on an infrequent basis;
- b) a gift being offered to the IJB;
- c) hospitality which would reasonably be associated with my duties as a board member; or
- d) hospitality which has been approved in advance by the IJB.

3.16 I will consider whether there could be a reasonable perception that any gift or hospitality received by a person or body connected to me could or would influence my judgement.

3.17 I will not allow the promise of money or other financial advantage to induce me to act improperly in my role as a board member. I accept that the money or advantage (including any gift or hospitality) does not have to be given to me directly. The offer of monies or advantages to others, including community groups, may amount to bribery, if the intention is to induce me to improperly perform a function.

3.18 I will never accept any gift or hospitality from any individual or applicant who is awaiting a decision from, or seeking to do business with, the IJB or HSCP .

3.19 If I consider that declining an offer of a gift would cause offence, I will accept it and hand it over to the IJB at the earliest possible opportunity and ask for it to be registered.

3.20 I will promptly advise the Standards Officer if I am offered (but refuse) any gift or hospitality of any significant value and / or if I am offered any gift or hospitality from the same source on a repeated basis, so that this can be monitored.

3.21 I will familiarise myself with the terms of the [Bribery Act 2010](#), which provides for offences of bribing another person and offences relating to being bribed.

Confidentiality

3.22 I will not disclose confidential information or information which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential or private nature, without the express consent of a person or body authorised to give such consent, or unless required to do so by law. I note that if I cannot obtain such express consent, I should assume it is not given.

3.23 I accept that confidential information can include discussions, documents, and information which is not yet public or never intended to be public, and information deemed confidential by statute.

3.24 I will only use confidential information to undertake my duties as a board member. I will not use it in any way for personal advantage or to discredit the IJB (even if my personal view is that the information should be publicly available).

3.25 I note that these confidentiality requirements do not apply to protected whistleblowing disclosures made to the prescribed persons and bodies as identified in statute.

Use of Public Body Resources

3.26 I will only use IJB or HSCP resources, including employee assistance, facilities, stationery and IT equipment, for carrying out duties on behalf of the IJB, in accordance with its relevant policies.

3.27 I will not use, or in any way enable others to use, the IJB's resources:

- a) imprudently (without thinking about the implications or consequences);
- b) unlawfully;
- c) for any political activities or matters relating to these; or
- d) improperly.

Dealing with the IJB and Preferential Treatment

3.28 I will not use, or attempt to use, my position or influence as a board member to:

- a) improperly confer on or secure for myself, or others, an advantage;
- b) avoid a disadvantage for myself, or create a disadvantage for others or
- c) improperly seek preferential treatment or access for myself or others.

3.29 I will avoid any action which could lead members of the public to believe that preferential treatment or access is being sought.

3.30 I will advise employees of any connection, as defined at [Section 5](#), I may have to a matter, when seeking information or advice or responding to a request for information or advice from them.

Appointments to Outside Organisations

3.31 If I am appointed, or nominated by the IJB, as a member of another body or organisation, I will abide by the rules of conduct and will act in the best interests of that body or organisation while acting as a member of it. I will also continue to observe the rules of this Code when carrying out the duties of that body or organisation.

3.32 I accept that if I am a director or trustee (or equivalent) of a company or a charity, I will be responsible for identifying, and taking advice on, any conflicts of interest that may arise between the company or charity and the IJB.

Section 4: Registration Of Interests

4.1 The following paragraphs set out what I have to register when I am appointed and whenever my circumstances change. The register covers my current term of appointment.

4.2 I understand that regulations made by the Scottish Ministers describe the detail and timescale for registering interests; including a requirement that a board member must register their registrable interests within one month of becoming a board member, and register any changes to those interests within one month of those changes having occurred.

4.3 The interests which I am required to register are those set out in the following paragraphs. Other than as required by paragraph 4.23, I understand it is not necessary to register the interests of my spouse or cohabitee.

Category One: Remuneration

4.4 I will register any work for which I receive, or expect to receive, payment. I have a registerable interest where I receive remuneration by virtue of being:

- a) employed;
- b) self-employed;
- c) the holder of an office;
- d) a director of an undertaking;
- e) a partner in a firm;
- f) appointed or nominated by my public body to another body; or
- g) engaged in a trade, profession or vocation or any other work.

4.5 I understand that in relation to 4.4 above, the amount of remuneration does not require to be registered. I understand that any remuneration received as member of the IJB does not have to be registered.

4.6 I understand that if a position is not remunerated it does not need to be registered under this category. However, unremunerated directorships may need to be registered under Category Two, "Other Roles".

4.7 I must register any allowances I receive in relation to membership of any organisation under Category One.

4.8 When registering employment as an employee, I must give the full name of the employer, the nature of its business, and the nature of the post I hold in the organisation.

4.9 When registering remuneration from the categories listed in paragraph 4.4 (b) to (g) above, I must provide the full name and give details of the nature of the business, organisation, undertaking, partnership or other body, as appropriate. I recognise that some other employments may be incompatible with my role as member of the IJB in terms of paragraph [6.7](#) of this Code.

4.10 Where I otherwise undertake a trade, profession or vocation, or any other work, the detail to be given is the nature of the work and how often it is undertaken.

4.11 When registering a directorship, it is necessary to provide the registered name and registered number of the undertaking in which the directorship is held and provide information about the nature of its business.

4.12 I understand that registration of a pension is not required as this falls outside the scope of the category.

Category Two: Other Roles

4.13 I will register any unremunerated directorships where the body in question is a subsidiary or parent company of an undertaking in which I hold a remunerated directorship.

4.14 I will register the registered name and registered number of the subsidiary or parent company or other undertaking and the nature of its business, and its relationship to the company or other undertaking in which I am a director and from which I receive remuneration.

Category Three: Contracts

4.15 I have a registerable interest where I (or a firm in which I am a partner, or an undertaking in which I am a director or in which I have shares of a value as described in paragraph 4.19 below) have made a contract with the IJB/HSCP:

- a) under which goods or services are to be provided, or works are to be executed; and
- b) which has not been fully discharged.

4.16 I will register a description of the contract, including its duration, but excluding the value.

Category Four: Election Expenses

4.17 If I have been elected to the IJB, then I will register a description of, and statement of, any assistance towards election expenses relating to election to the IJB.

Category Five: Houses, Land and Buildings

4.18 I have a registrable interest where I own or have any other right or interest in houses, land and buildings, which may be significant to, of relevance to, or bear upon, the work and operation of the IJB.

4.19 I accept that, when deciding whether or not I need to register any interest I have in houses, land or buildings, the test to be applied is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as being so significant that it could potentially affect my responsibilities to the IJB and to the public, or could influence my actions, speeches or decision-making.

Category Six: Interest in Shares and Securities

4.20 I have a registerable interest where:

- a) I own or have an interest in more than 1% of the issued share capital of the company or other body; or
- b) Where, at the relevant date, the market value of any shares and securities (in any one specific company or body) that I own or have an interest in is greater than £25,000.

Category Seven: Gifts and Hospitality

4.21 I understand the requirements of paragraphs [3.13 to 3.21](#) regarding gifts and hospitality. As I will not accept any gifts or hospitality, other than under the limited circumstances allowed, I understand there is no longer the need to register any.

Category Eight: Non-Financial Interests

4.22 I may also have other interests and I understand it is equally important that relevant interests such as membership or holding office in other public bodies, companies, clubs, societies and organisations such as trades unions and voluntary organisations, are registered and described. In this context, I understand non-financial interests are those which members of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts might reasonably think could influence my actions, speeches, votes or decision-making in the IJB (this includes its committees and memberships of other organisations to which I have been appointed or nominated by the IJB).

Category Nine: Close Family Members

4.23 I will register the interests of any close family member who has transactions with the IJB/HSCP or is likely to have transactions or do business with it.

Stage 1: Connection

5.1 For each particular matter I am involved in as a board member, I will first consider whether I have a connection to that matter.

5.2 I understand that a connection is any link between the matter being considered and me, or a person or body I am associated with. This could be a family relationship or a social or professional contact.

5.3 A connection includes anything that I have registered as an interest.

5.4 A connection does not include being a member of a body to which I have been appointed or nominated by the IJB as a representative of it, unless:

- a) The matter being considered by the IJB is quasi-judicial or regulatory; or
- b) I have a personal conflict by reason of my actions, my connections or my legal obligations.

Stage 2: Interest

5.5 I understand my connection is an interest that requires to be declared where the objective test is met – that is where a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard my connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence the discussion or decision-making.

Stage 3: Participation

5.6 I will declare my interest as early as possible in meetings. I will not remain in the meeting nor participate in any way in those parts of meetings where I have declared an interest.

5.7 I will consider whether it is appropriate for transparency reasons to state publicly where I have a connection, which I do not consider amounts to an interest.

5.8 I note that I can apply to the Standards Commission and ask it to grant a dispensation to allow me to take part in the discussion and decision-making on a matter where I would otherwise have to declare an interest and withdraw (as a result of having a connection to the matter that would fall within the objective test). I note that such an application must be made in advance of any meetings where the dispensation is sought and that I cannot take part in any discussion or decision-making on the matter in question unless, and until, the application is granted.

5.9 I note that public confidence in a public body is damaged by the perception that decisions taken by that body are substantially influenced by factors other than the public interest. I will not accept a role or appointment if doing so means I will have to declare interests frequently at meetings in respect of my role as a board member. Similarly, if any appointment or nomination to another body would give rise to objective concern because of my existing personal involvement or affiliations, I will not accept the appointment or nomination.

Section 6: Lobbying And Access

6.1 I understand that a wide range of people will seek access to me as a board member and will try to lobby me, including individuals, organisations and companies. I must distinguish between:

- a) any role I have in dealing with enquiries from the public;
- b) any community engagement where I am working with individuals and organisations to encourage their participation and involvement, and;
- c) lobbying, which is where I am approached by any individual or organisation who is seeking to influence me for financial gain or advantage, particularly those who are seeking to do business with my public body (for example contracts/procurement).

6.2 In deciding whether, and if so how, to respond to such lobbying, I will always have regard to the objective test, which is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard my conduct as being likely to influence my, or the IJB's, decision-making role.

6.3 I will not, in relation to contact with any person or organisation that lobbies, do anything which contravenes this Code or any other relevant rule of the IJB or any statutory provision.

6.4 I will not, in relation to contact with any person or organisation that lobbies, act in any way which could bring discredit upon the IJB.

6.5 If I have concerns about the approach or methods used by any person or organisation in their contacts with me, I will seek the guidance of the Chief Officer or Standards Officer of the IJB.

6.6 The public must be assured that no person or organisation will gain better access to, or treatment by, me as a result of employing a company or individual to lobby on a fee basis on their behalf. I will not, therefore, offer or accord any preferential access or treatment to those lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients compared with that which I accord any other person or organisation who lobbies or approaches me. I will ensure that those lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients are not given to understand that preferential access or treatment, compared to that accorded to any other person or organisation, might be forthcoming.

6.7 Before taking any action as a result of being lobbied, I will seek to satisfy myself about the identity of the person or organisation that is lobbying and the motive for lobbying. I understand I may choose to act in response to a person or organisation lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients but it is important that I understand the basis on which I am being lobbied in order to ensure that any action taken in connection with the lobbyist complies with the standards set out in this Code and the [Lobbying \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#).

6.8 I will not accept any paid work:

- a) which would involve me lobbying on behalf of any person or organisation or any clients of a person or organisation.
- b) to provide services as a strategist, adviser or consultant, for example, advising on how to influence the IJB and its members. This does not prohibit me from being remunerated for activity which may arise because of, or relate to, membership of the IJB, such as journalism or broadcasting, or involvement in representative or presentational work, such as participation in delegations, conferences or other events.

Annex A: Breaches Of The Code

Introduction

1. [The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#) (“the Act”) provided for a framework to encourage and, where necessary, enforce high ethical standards in public life.
2. The Act provided for the introduction of new codes of conduct for local authority councillors and members of relevant public bodies, imposing on councils and relevant public bodies a duty to help their members comply with the relevant code.
3. The Act and the subsequent Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Act 2010 established the [Standards Commission for Scotland](#) (“Standards Commission”) and the post of [Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland](#) (“ESC”).
4. The Standards Commission and ESC are separate and independent, each with distinct functions. Complaints of breaches of a public body’s Code of Conduct are investigated by the ESC and adjudicated upon by the Standards Commission.
5. The first Model Code of Conduct came into force in 2002. The Code has since been reviewed and re-issued in 2014. The 2021 Code has been issued by the Scottish Ministers following consultation, and with the approval of the Scottish Parliament, as required by the Act.

Investigation of Complaints

6. The ESC is responsible for investigating complaints about members of devolved public bodies. It is not, however, mandatory to report a complaint about a potential breach of the Code to the ESC. It may be more appropriate in some circumstances for attempts to be made to resolve the matter informally at a local level.
7. On conclusion of the investigation, the ESC will send a report to the Standards Commission.

Hearings

8. On receipt of a report from the ESC, the Standards Commission can choose to:
 - Do nothing;
 - Direct the ESC to carry out further investigations; or
 - Hold a Hearing.
9. Hearings are held (usually in public) to determine whether the member concerned has breached their public body’s Code of Conduct. The Hearing Panel comprises of three members of the Standards Commission. The ESC will present evidence and/or make submissions at the Hearing about the investigation and any conclusions as to whether the member has contravened the Code. The member is entitled to attend or be represented at the Hearing and can also present evidence and make

submissions. Both parties can call witnesses. Once it has heard all the evidence and submissions, the Hearing Panel will make a determination about whether or not it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that there has been a contravention of the Code by the member. If the Hearing Panel decides that a member has breached their public body's Code, it is obliged to impose a sanction.

Sanctions

10. The sanctions that can be imposed following a finding of a breach of the Code are as follows:
- **Censure:** A censure is a formal record of the Standards Commission's severe and public disapproval of the member concerned.
 - **Suspension:** This can be a full or partial suspension (for up to one year). A full suspension means that the member is suspended from attending all meetings of the public body. Partial suspension means that the member is suspended from attending some of the meetings of the public body. The Commission can direct that any remuneration or allowance the member receives as a result of their membership of the public body be reduced or not paid during a period of suspension.
 - **Disqualification:** Disqualification means that the member is removed from membership of the body and disqualified (for a period not exceeding five years), from membership of the body. Where a member is also a member of another devolved public body (as defined in the Act), the Commission may also remove or disqualify that person in respect of that membership. Full details of the sanctions are set out in section 19 of the Act.

Interim Suspensions

11. Section 21 of the Act provides the Standards Commission with the power to impose an interim suspension on a member on receipt of an interim report from the ESC about an ongoing investigation. In making a decision about whether or not to impose an interim suspension, a Panel comprising of three Members of the Standards Commission will review the interim report and any representations received from the member and will consider whether it is satisfied:
- That the further conduct of the ESC's investigation is likely to be prejudiced if such an action is not taken (for example if there are concerns that the member may try to interfere with evidence or witnesses); or
 - That it is otherwise in the public interest to take such a measure. A policy outlining how the Standards Commission makes any decision under Section 21 and the procedures it will follow in doing so, should any such a report be received from the ESC can be found [here](#).
12. The decision to impose an interim suspension is not, and should not be seen as, a finding on the merits of any complaint or the validity of any allegations against a member of a devolved public body, nor should it be viewed as a disciplinary measure.

Annex B: Definitions

“Bullying” is inappropriate and unwelcome behaviour which is offensive and intimidating, and which makes an individual or group feel undermined, humiliated or insulted.

"Chair" includes Board Convener or any other individual discharging a similar function to that of a Chair or Convener under alternative decision-making structures.

“Code” is the code of conduct for members of your devolved public body, which is based on the Model Code of Conduct for members of devolved public bodies in Scotland.

"Cohabitee" includes any person who is living with you in a relationship similar to that of a partner, civil partner, or spouse.

“Confidential Information” includes:

- any information passed on to the public body by a Government department (even if it is not clearly marked as confidential) which does not allow the disclosure of that information to the public;
- information of which the law prohibits disclosure (under statute or by the order of a Court);
- any legal advice provided to the public body; or
- any other information which would reasonably be considered a breach of confidence should it be made public.

"Election expenses" means expenses incurred, whether before, during or after the election, on account of, or in respect of, the conduct or management of the election.

“Employee” includes individuals employed:

- directly by the public body;
- as contractors by the public body, or
- by a contractor to work on the public body’s premises.

“Gifts” a gift can include any item or service received free of charge, or which may be offered or promised at a discounted rate or on terms not available to the general public. Gifts include benefits such as relief from indebtedness, loan concessions, or provision of property, services or facilities at a cost below that generally charged to members of the public. It can also include gifts received directly or gifts received by any company in which the recipient holds a controlling interest in, or by a partnership of which the recipient is a partner.

“Harassment” is any unwelcome behaviour or conduct which makes someone feel offended, humiliated, intimidated, frightened and / or uncomfortable. Harassment can be experienced directly or indirectly and can occur as an isolated incident or as a course of persistent behaviour.

“Hospitality” includes the offer or promise of food, drink, accommodation, entertainment or the opportunity to attend any cultural or sporting event on terms not available to the general public.

“Relevant Date” Where a board member had an interest in shares at the date on which the member was appointed as a member, the relevant date is – (a) that date; and (b) the 5th April immediately following that date and in each succeeding year, where the interest is retained on that 5th April.

“Public body” means a devolved public body listed in Schedule 3 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, as amended.

“Remuneration” includes any salary, wage, share of profits, fee, other monetary benefit or benefit in kind.

“Securities” a security is a certificate or other financial instrument that has monetary value and can be traded. Securities includes equity and debt securities, such as stocks bonds and debentures.

“Undertaking” means:

- a) a body corporate or partnership; or
- b) an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business, with or without a view to a profit.

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CODE of CONDUCT

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MEMBERS

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East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

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**CODE OF CONDUCT for MEMBERS of
*East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board***

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

1.1 The Scottish public has a high expectation of those who serve on the boards of public bodies and the way in which they should conduct themselves in undertaking their duties. You must meet those expectations by ensuring that your conduct is above reproach.

1.2 The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, “the 2000 Act”, provides for Codes of Conduct for local authority Councillors and members of relevant public bodies; imposes on councils and relevant public bodies a duty to help their members to comply with the relevant Code; and establishes a Standards Commission for Scotland, “The Standards Commission” to oversee the new framework and deal with alleged breaches of the Codes.

1.3 The 2000 Act requires the Scottish Ministers to lay before Parliament a Code of Conduct for Councillors and a Model Code for Members of Devolved Public Bodies. The Model Code for members was first introduced in 2002 and has now been revised in December 2013 following consultation and the approval of the Scottish Parliament. These revisions will make it consistent with the relevant parts of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, which was revised in 2010 following the approval of the Scottish Parliament.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments & Savings) Order 2015 has determined that Integration Joint Boards are “devolved public bodies” for the purposes of the 2000 Act.

1.4 This Code for Integration Joint Boards has been specifically developed using the Model Code and the statutory requirements of the 2000 Act. As a member of East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board, “the IJB”, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are familiar with, and that your actions comply with, the provisions of this Code of Conduct which has now been made by the IJB.

This Code applies when you are acting as a member of East Renfrewshire IJB and you may also be subject to another Code of Conduct.

Appointments to the Boards of Public Bodies

1.5 Whilst your appointment as a member of an Integration Joint Board sits outside the Ministerial appointment process, you should have an awareness of the system surrounding public appointments in Scotland. Further information can be found in the public appointment section of the Scottish Government website at <http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org/>.

Details of IJB membership requirements are set out in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014 and further helpful information is contained in the “Roles, Responsibilities and Membership of the Integration Joint Board” guidance, which also includes information on Equality Duties and Diversity.

Public bodies in Scotland are required to deliver effective services to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population. In addition, the Scottish Government’s equality outcome on public appointments is to ensure that Ministerial appointments are more diverse than at present. In order to meet both of these aims, a board should ideally be drawn from varied backgrounds with a wide spectrum of characteristics, knowledge and experience. It is crucial to the success of public bodies that they attract the best people for the job and therefore it is essential that a board’s appointments process should encourage as many suitable people to apply for positions and be free from unnecessary barriers. You should therefore be aware of the varied roles and functions of the IJB on which you serve and of wider diversity and equality issues.

1.6 You should also familiarise yourself with how the East Renfrewshire IJB policy operates in relation to succession planning, which should ensure that the IJB has a strategy to make sure they have the members in place with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to fulfil their role economically, efficiently and effectively.

Guidance on the Code of Conduct

1.7 You must observe the rules of conduct contained in this Code. **It is your personal responsibility to comply with these and review regularly, and at least annually, your personal circumstances with this in mind, particularly when your circumstances change.** You must not at any time advocate or encourage any action contrary to the Code of Conduct.

1.8 The Code has been developed in line with the key principles listed in Section 2 and provides additional information on how the principles should be interpreted and applied in practice. The Standards Commission may also issue guidance. No Code can provide for all circumstances and if you are uncertain about how the rules apply, you should in the first instance seek advice from the Chair of the IJB or Chief Officer. You may also choose to consult your own legal advisers and, on detailed financial and commercial matters, seek advice from other relevant professionals.

1.9 You should familiarise yourself with the Scottish Government publication “On Board – a guide for board members of public bodies in Scotland” and the “Roles, Responsibilities and Membership of the Integration Joint Board” guidance. These publications will provide you with information to help you in your role as a member of an Integration Joint Board, and can be viewed on the Scottish Government website.

Enforcement

1.10 Part 2 of the 2000 Act sets out the provisions for dealing with alleged breaches of this Code of Conduct and where appropriate the sanctions that will be applied if the Standards Commission finds that there has been a breach of the Code. Those sanctions are outlined in **Annex A**.

SECTION 2: KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1 The general principles upon which this Code is based should be used for guidance and interpretation only. These general principles are:

Duty

You have a duty to uphold the law and act in accordance with the law and the public trust placed in you. You have a duty to act in the interests of East Renfrewshire IJB and in accordance with the core functions and duties of the IJB.

Selflessness

You have a duty to take decisions solely in terms of public interest. You must not act in order to gain financial or other material benefit for yourself, family or friends.

Integrity

You must not place yourself under any financial, or other, obligation to any individual or organisation that might reasonably be thought to influence you in the performance of your duties.

Objectivity

You must make decisions solely on merit and in a way that is consistent with the functions of East Renfrewshire IJB when carrying out public business including making appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits.

Accountability and Stewardship

You are accountable for your decisions and actions to the public. You have a duty to consider issues on their merits, taking account of the views of others and must ensure that East Renfrewshire IJB uses its resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

Openness

You have a duty to be as open as possible about your decisions and actions, giving reasons for your decisions and restricting information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

You have a duty to act honestly. You must declare any private interests relating to your public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

You have a duty to promote and support these principles by leadership and example, and to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of East Renfrewshire IJB and its members in conducting public business.

Respect

You must respect fellow members of East Renfrewshire IJB and employees of related organisations supporting the operation of the IJB and the role they play, treating them with courtesy at all times. Similarly you must respect members of the public when performing duties as a member of East Renfrewshire IJB.

2.2 You should apply the principles of this Code to your dealings with fellow members of East Renfrewshire IJB, employees of related organisations supporting the operation of the IJB and other stakeholders. Similarly you should also observe the principles of this Code in dealings with the public when performing duties as a member of East Renfrewshire IJB.

SECTION 3: GENERAL CONDUCT

3.1 The rules of good conduct in this section must be observed in all situations where you act as a member of the IJB.

Conduct at Meetings

3.2 You must respect the chair, your colleagues and employees of related organisations supporting the operation of the IJB in meetings. You must comply with rulings from the chair in the conduct of the business of these meetings.

You should familiarise yourself with the Standing Orders for East Renfrewshire IJB, which govern the Board's proceedings and business. The "Roles, Responsibilities and Membership of the Integration Joint Board" guidance, will also provide you with further helpful information.

Relationship with IJB Members and Employees of Related Organisations

3.3 You will treat your fellow IJB members and employees of related organisations supporting the operation of the IJB with courtesy and respect. It is expected that fellow IJB members and employees of related organisations supporting the operation of the IJB will show you the same consideration in return. It is good practice for employers to provide examples of what is unacceptable behaviour in their organisation and the Health Board or local authority of the IJB should be able to provide this information to any IJB member on request.

Public bodies should promote a safe, healthy and fair working environment for all. As a member of East Renfrewshire IJB you should be familiar with any policies of the Health Board and local authority of the IJB as a minimum in relation to bullying and harassment in the workplace, and also lead by exemplar behaviour.

Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses

3.4 You must comply with any rules applying to the IJB regarding remuneration, allowances and expenses.

Gifts and Hospitality

3.5 You must not accept any offer by way of gift or hospitality which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on your part to show favour, or disadvantage, to any individual or organisation. You should also consider whether there may be any reasonable perception that any gift received by your spouse or cohabitee or by any company in which you have a controlling interest, or by a partnership of which you are a partner, can or would influence your judgement. The term “gift” includes benefits such as relief from indebtedness, loan concessions or provision of services at a cost below that generally charged to members of the public.

3.6 You must never ask for gifts or hospitality.

3.7 You are personally responsible for all decisions connected with the offer or acceptance of gifts or hospitality offered to you and for avoiding the risk of damage to public confidence in your IJB. As a general guide, it is usually appropriate to refuse offers except:

- (a) isolated gifts of a trivial character, the value of which must not exceed £50;
- (b) normal hospitality associated with your duties and which would reasonably be regarded as appropriate; or
- (c) gifts received on behalf of the IJB.

3.8 You must not accept any offer of a gift or hospitality from any individual or organisation which stands to gain or benefit from a decision that East Renfrewshire IJB may be involved in determining, or who is seeking to do business with your IJB, and which a person might reasonably consider could have a bearing on your judgement. If you are making a visit in your capacity as a member of East Renfrewshire IJB then, as a general rule, you should ensure that your IJB pays for the cost of the visit.

3.9 You must not accept repeated hospitality or repeated gifts from the same source.

3.10 As a member of a devolved public body, you should familiarise yourself with the terms of the Bribery Act 2010 which provides for offences of bribing another person and offences relating to being bribed.

Confidentiality Requirements

3.11 There may be times when you will be required to treat discussions, documents or other information relating to the work of East Renfrewshire IJB in a confidential manner. You will often receive information of a private nature which is not yet public, or which perhaps would not be intended to be public. You must always respect the confidential nature of such information and comply with the requirement to keep such information private.

3.12 It is unacceptable to disclose any information to which you have privileged access, for example derived from a confidential document, either orally or in writing. In the case of other documents and information, you are requested to exercise your judgement as to what should or should not be made available to outside bodies or individuals. In any event, such information should never be used for the purposes of personal or financial gain or for political purposes or used in such a way as to bring East Renfrewshire IJB into disrepute.

Use of Health Board or Local Authority Facilities by Members of the IJB

3.13 Members of East Renfrewshire IJB must not misuse facilities, equipment, stationery, telephony, computer, information technology equipment and services, or use them for party political or campaigning activities. Use of such equipment and services etc. must be in accordance with the Health Board or local authority policy and rules on their usage. Care must also be exercised when using social media networks not to compromise your position as a member of East Renfrewshire IJB.

Appointment to Partner Organisations

3.14 In the unlikely circumstances that you may be appointed, or nominated by East Renfrewshire IJB, as a member of another body or organisation, you are bound by the rules of conduct of these organisations and should observe the rules of this Code in carrying out the duties of that body.

3.15 Members who become directors of companies as nominees of their IJB will assume personal responsibilities under the Companies Acts. It is possible that conflicts of interest can arise for such members between the company and the IJB. It is your responsibility to take advice on your responsibilities to the IJB and to the company. This will include questions of declarations of interest.

SECTION 4: REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

4.1 The following paragraphs set out the kinds of interests, financial and otherwise which you have to register. These are called “Registerable Interests”. You must, at all times, ensure that these interests are registered, when you are appointed and whenever your circumstances change in such a way as to require change or an addition to your entry in the IJB’s Register. It is your duty to ensure any changes in circumstances are reported within one month of them changing.

4.2 The Regulations¹ as amended describe the detail and timescale for registering interests. It is your personal responsibility to comply with these regulations and you should review regularly and at least once a year your personal circumstances. Annex B contains key definitions and explanatory notes to help you decide what is required when registering your interests under any particular category. The interests which require to be registered are those set out in the following paragraphs and relate to you. It is not necessary to register the interests of your spouse or cohabitee.

Category One: Remuneration

4.3 You have a Registerable Interest where you receive remuneration by virtue of being:

- employed;
- self-employed;
- the holder of an office;
- a director of an undertaking;
- a partner in a firm; or
- undertaking a trade, profession or vocation or any other work.

This requirement also applies where, by virtue of your employment in a particular post, you are required to be a member of the IJB.

4.4 In relation to 4.3 above, the amount of remuneration does not require to be registered and remuneration received as a member does not have to be registered.

4.5 If a position is not remunerated it does not need to be registered under this category. However, unremunerated directorships may need to be registered under category two, “Related Undertakings”.

4.6 If you receive any allowances in relation to membership of any organisation, the fact that you receive such an allowance must be registered.

4.7 When registering employment, you must give the name of the employer, the nature of its business, and the nature of the post held in the organisation.

¹ SSI - The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Regulations 2003 Number 135, as amended.

4.8 When registering self-employment, you must provide the name and give details of the nature of the business. When registering an interest in a partnership, you must give the name of the partnership and the nature of its business.

4.9 Where you undertake a trade, profession or vocation, or any other work, the detail to be given is the nature of the work and its regularity. For example, if you write for a newspaper, you must give the name of the publication, and the frequency of articles for which you are paid.

4.10 When registering a directorship, it is necessary to provide the registered name of the undertaking in which the directorship is held and the nature of its business.

4.11 Registration of a pension is not required as this falls outside the scope of the category.

Category Two: Related Undertakings

4.12 You must register any directorships held which are themselves not remunerated but where the company (or other undertaking) in question is a subsidiary of, or a parent of, a company (or other undertaking) in which you hold a remunerated directorship.

4.13 You must register the name of the subsidiary or parent company or other undertaking and the nature of its business, and its relationship to the company or other undertaking in which you are a director and from which you receive remuneration.

4.14 The situations to which the above paragraphs apply are as follows:

- you are a director of a board of an undertaking and receive remuneration declared under category one – and
- you are a director of a parent or subsidiary undertaking but do not receive remuneration in that capacity.

Category Three: Contracts

4.15 You have a registerable interest where you (or a firm in which you are a partner, or an undertaking in which you are a director or in which you have shares of a value as described in paragraph 4.19 below) have made a contract with the IJB of which you are a member:

(i) under which goods or services are to be provided, or works are to be executed; and

(ii) which has not been fully discharged.

4.16 You must register a description of the contract, including its duration, but excluding the consideration.

Category Four: Houses, Land and Buildings

4.17 You have a registerable interest where you own or have any other right or interest in houses, land and buildings, which may be significant to, of relevance to, or bear upon, the work and operation of the body to which you are appointed.

4.18 The test to be applied when considering appropriateness of registration is to ask whether a member of the public acting reasonably might consider any interests in houses, land and buildings could potentially affect your responsibilities to the organisation to which you are appointed and to the public, or could influence your actions, speeches or decision making.

Category Five: Interest in Shares and Securities

4.19 You have a registerable interest where you have an interest in shares comprised in the share capital of a company or other body which may be significant to, of relevance to, or bear upon, the work and operation of (a) the body to which you are appointed and (b) the **nominal value** of the shares is:

- (i) greater than 1% of the issued share capital of the company or other body; or
- (ii) greater than £25,000.

Where you are required to register the interest, you should provide the registered name of the company in which you hold shares; the amount or value of the shares does not have to be registered.

Category Six: Gifts and Hospitality

4.20 You must register the details of any gifts or hospitality received within your current term of office. This record will be available for public inspection. It is not however necessary to record any gifts or hospitality as described in paragraph 3.7 (a) to (c) of this Code.

Category Seven: Non-Financial Interests

4.21 You may also have a registerable interest if you have non-financial interests which may be significant to, of relevance to, or bear upon, the work and operation of the IJB to which you are appointed. It is important that relevant interests such as membership or holding office in other public bodies, clubs, societies and organisations such as trades unions and voluntary organisations, are registered and described. This requirement also applies where, by virtue of your membership of a particular group, you have been appointed to the IJB.

4.22 In the context of non-financial interests, the test to be applied when considering appropriateness of registration is to ask whether a member of the public might reasonably think that any non-financial interest could potentially affect your responsibilities to the organisation to which you are appointed and to the public, or could influence your actions, speeches or decision-making.

SECTION 5: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

General

5.1 The key principles of the Code, especially those in relation to integrity, honesty and openness, are given further practical effect by the requirement for you to declare certain interests in proceedings of the IJB. Together with the rules on registration of interests, this ensures transparency of your interests which might influence, or be thought to influence, your actions. For further detail on the declaration requirements of East Renfrewshire IJB, you can refer to the IJB's Standing Orders.

5.2 IJBs inevitably have dealings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals and this Code indicates the circumstances in which a business or personal interest must be declared. Public confidence in East Renfrewshire IJB and its members depends on it being clearly understood that decisions are taken in the public interest and not for any other reason.

5.3 In considering whether to make a declaration in any proceedings, you must consider not only whether you will be influenced but whether anybody else would think that you might be influenced by the interest. You must, however, always comply with the **objective test** ("the objective test") which is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a member of East Renfrewshire IJB. You will wish to familiarise yourself with your IJB's Standing Orders and the "Roles, Responsibilities and Membership of the Integration Joint Board" guidance.

5.4 If you feel that, in the context of the matter being considered, your involvement is neither capable of being viewed as more significant than that of an ordinary member of the public, nor likely to be perceived by the public as wrong, you may continue to attend the meeting and participate in both discussion and voting. The relevant interest must however be declared. It is your responsibility to judge whether an interest is sufficiently relevant to particular proceedings to require a declaration and you are advised to err on the side of caution. If a board member is unsure as to whether a conflict of interest exists, they should seek advice from the Board chair or Chief Officer in the first instance.

5.5 As a member of East Renfrewshire IJB you might *also* serve on other bodies. In relation to service on the boards and management committees of limited liability companies, public bodies, societies and other organisations, you must decide, in the particular circumstances surrounding any matter, whether to declare an interest.

Only if you believe that, in the particular circumstances, the nature of the interest is so remote or without significance, should it not be declared. You must always remember the public interest points towards transparency and, in particular, a possible divergence of interest between your IJB and another body. Keep particularly in mind the advice in paragraph 3.15 of this Code about your legal responsibilities to any limited company of which you are a director.

Interests which Require Declaration

5.6 Interests which require to be declared if known to you may be financial or non-financial. They may or may not cover interests which are registerable under the terms of this Code. Most of the interests to be declared will be your personal interests but, on occasion, you will have to consider whether the interests of other persons require you to make a declaration. The paragraphs which follow deal with (a) your financial interests (b) your non-financial interests and (c) the

interests, financial and non-financial, of other persons.

5.7 You will also have other private and personal interests and may serve, or be associated with, bodies, societies and organisations as a result of your private and personal interests and not because of your role as a member of an IJB. In the context of any particular matter you will need to decide whether to declare an interest. You should declare an interest unless you believe that, in the particular circumstances, the interest is too remote or without significance. In reaching a view on whether the objective test applies to the interest, you should consider whether your interest (whether taking the form of association or the holding of office) would be seen by a member of the public acting reasonably in a different light because it is the interest of a person who is a member of an IJB as opposed to the interest of an ordinary member of the public.

Your Financial Interests

5.8 You must declare, if it is known to you, any financial interest (including any financial interest which is registerable under any of the categories prescribed in Section 4 of this Code). If, under category one (or category seven in respect of non-financial interests) of section 4 of this Code, you have registered an interest as a

- Councillor or a Member of another Devolved Public Body where the Council or other Devolved Public Body, as the case may be, has nominated or appointed you as a Member of the IJB, or you have been appointed to the IJB by virtue of your position under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014;

you do not, for that reason alone, have to declare that interest.

There is no need to declare an interest which is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be taken to fall within the objective test.

A member must disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary or other interest in relation to an item of business to be transacted at a meeting of the integration joint board, or a committee of the integration joint board, before taking part in any discussion on that item.

Where an interest is disclosed under the above terms the onus is on the member declaring the interest to decide whether, in the circumstances, it is appropriate for that member to take part in the discussion of, or voting on the item of business.

You must withdraw from the meeting room until discussion of and voting on the relevant item where you have a declarable interest is concluded. There is no need to withdraw in the case of an interest which is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be taken to fall within the objective test.

Your Non-Financial Interests

5.9 You must declare, if it is known to you, any non-financial interest if:

- (i) that interest has been registered under category seven (Non-Financial Interests) of Section 4 of the Code; or
- (ii) that interest would fall within the terms of the objective test.

There is no need to declare an interest which is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be taken to fall within the objective test.

You do not have to declare an interest solely because you are a Councillor or Member of another Devolved Public Body or you have been appointed to the IJB by virtue of your position under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014.

A member must disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary or other interest in relation to an item of business to be transacted at a meeting of the integration joint board, or a committee of the integration joint board, before taking part in any discussion on that item.

Where an interest is disclosed under the above terms the onus is on the member declaring the interest to decide whether, in the circumstances, it is appropriate for that member to take part in the discussion of, or voting on the item of business.

You must withdraw from the meeting room until discussion of and voting on the relevant item where you have a declarable interest is concluded. **There is no need to withdraw in the case of an interest which is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be taken to fall within the objective test.**

The Financial Interests of Other Persons

5.10 The Code requires only your financial interests to be registered. You also, however, have to consider whether you should declare any financial interest of certain other persons.

You must declare if it is known to you any financial interest of:-

- (i) a spouse, a civil partner or a co-habitee;
- (ii) a close relative, close friend or close associate;
- (iii) an employer or a partner in a firm;
- (iv) a body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) of which you are a remunerated member or director;
- (v) a person from whom you have received a registerable gift or registerable hospitality;
- (vi) a person from whom you have received registerable expenses.

There is no need to declare an interest if it is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be taken to fall within the objective test.

You must withdraw from the meeting room until discussion of and voting on the relevant item where you have a declarable interest is concluded. **There is no need to withdraw in the case of an interest which is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be taken to fall within the objective test.**

5.11 This Code does not attempt the task of defining “relative” or “friend” or “associate”. Not only is such a task fraught with difficulty but is also unlikely that such definitions would reflect the intention of this part of the Code. The key principle is the need for transparency in regard to any interest which might (regardless of the precise description of relationship) be objectively regarded by a member of the public, acting reasonably, as potentially affecting your responsibilities as a

member of the IJB and, as such, would be covered by the objective test.

The Non-Financial Interests of Other Persons

5.12 You must declare if it is known to you any non-financial interest of:-

- (i) a spouse, a civil partner or a co-habitee;
- (ii) a close relative, close friend or close associate;
- (iii) an employer or a partner in a firm;
- (iv) a body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) of which you are a remunerated member or director;
- (v) a person from whom you have received a registerable gift or registerable hospitality;
- (vi) a person from whom you have received registerable election expenses.

There is no need to declare the interest if it is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be taken to fall within the objective test.

There is only a need to withdraw from the meeting if the interest is clear and substantial.

Making a Declaration

5.13 You must consider at the earliest stage possible whether you have an interest to declare in relation to any matter which is to be considered. You should consider whether agendas for meetings raise any issue of declaration of interest. Your declaration of interest must be made as soon as practicable at a meeting where that interest arises. If you do identify the need for a declaration of interest only when a particular matter is being discussed you must declare the interest as soon as you realise it is necessary.

5.14 The oral statement of declaration of interest should identify the item or items of business to which it relates. The statement should begin with the words "I declare an interest". The statement must be sufficiently informative to enable those at the meeting to understand the nature of your interest but need not give a detailed description of the interest.

Frequent Declarations of Interest

5.15 Public confidence in an IJB is damaged by perception that decisions taken by that body are substantially influenced by factors other than the public interest. If members are frequently declaring interests at meetings then they should consider whether they can carry out their role effectively and discuss this at the earliest opportunity with their chair or Chief Officer.

Similarly, if any appointment or nomination to another body would give rise to objective concern because of your existing personal involvement or affiliations, you should not accept the appointment or nomination.

Dispensations

5.16 In some very limited circumstances dispensations can be granted by the Standards Commission in relation to the existence of financial and non-financial interests which would otherwise prohibit you from taking part and voting on matters coming before your IJB and its committees.

5.17 Applications for dispensations will be considered by the Standards Commission and should be made as soon as possible in order to allow proper consideration of the application in advance of meetings where dispensation is sought. You should not take part in the consideration of the matter in question until the application has been granted.

SECTION 6: LOBBYING AND ACCESS TO MEMBERS OF PUBLIC BODIES

Introduction

6.1 In order for East Renfrewshire IJB to fulfil its commitment to being open and accessible, it needs to encourage participation by organisations and individuals in the decision-making process. Clearly however, the desire to involve the public and other interest groups in the decision-making process must take account of the need to ensure transparency and probity in the way in which East Renfrewshire IJB conducts its business.

6.2 You will need to be able to consider evidence and arguments advanced by a wide range of organisations and individuals in order to perform your duties effectively. Some of these organisations and individuals will make their views known directly to individual members. The rules in this Code set out how you should conduct yourself in your contacts with those who would seek to influence you. They are designed to encourage proper interaction between members of public bodies, those they represent and interest groups. You should also familiarise yourself with the “Roles, Responsibilities and Membership” guidance for members of an Integration Joint Board.

Rules and Guidance

6.3 You must not, in relation to contact with any person or organisation that lobbies do anything which contravenes this Code or any other relevant rule of East Renfrewshire IJB or any statutory provision.

6.4 You must not, in relation to contact with any person or organisation who lobbies, act in any way which could bring discredit upon East Renfrewshire IJB.

6.5 The public must be assured that no person or organisation will gain better access to or treatment by, you as a result of employing a company or individual to lobby on a fee basis on their behalf. You must not, therefore, offer or accord any preferential access or treatment to those lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients compared with that which you accord any other person or organisation who lobbies or approaches you. Nor should those lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients be given to understand that preferential access or treatment, compared to that accorded to any other person or organisation, might be forthcoming from another member of East Renfrewshire IJB.

6.6 Before taking any action as a result of being lobbied, you should seek to satisfy yourself about the identity of the person or organisation that is lobbying and the motive for lobbying. You may choose to act in response to a person or organisation lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients but it is important that you know the basis on which you are being lobbied in order to ensure that any action taken in connection with the lobbyist complies with the standards set out in this Code.

- 6.7 You should not accept any paid work relating to health and social care:-
- (a) which would involve you lobbying on behalf of any person or organisation or any clients of a person or organisation.
 - (b) to provide services as a strategist, adviser or consultant, for example, advising on how to influence the IJB and its members. This does not prohibit you from being remunerated for activity which may arise because of, or relate to, membership of the IJB, such as journalism or broadcasting, or involvement in representative or presentational work, such as participation in delegations, conferences or other events.

Members of Integration Joint Boards are appointed because of the skills, knowledge and experience they possess. The onus will be on the individual member to consider their position under paragraph 6.7.

6.8 If you have concerns about the approach or methods used by any person or organisation in their contacts with you, you must seek the guidance of the chair of East Renfrewshire IJB or Chief Officer in the first instance.

ANNEX A**SANCTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR BREACH OF THE CODE**

- (a) Censure – the Commission may reprimand the member but otherwise take no action against them;
- (b) Suspension – of the member for a maximum period of one year from attending one or more, but not all, of the following:
- i) all meetings of the public body;
 - ii) all meetings of one or more committees or sub-committees of the public body;
 - (iii) all meetings of any other public body on which that member is a representative or nominee of the public body of which they are a member.
- (c) Suspension – for a period not exceeding one year, of the member’s entitlement to attend all of the meetings referred to in (b) above;
- (d) Disqualification – removing the member from membership of that public body for a period of no more than five years.

Where a member has been suspended, the Standards Commission may direct that any remuneration or allowance received from membership of that public body be reduced, or not paid.

Where the Standards Commission disqualifies a member of a public body, it may go on to impose the following further sanctions:

- (a) Where the member of a public body is also a councillor, the Standards Commission may disqualify that member (for a period of no more than five years) from being nominated for election as, or from being elected, a councillor. Disqualification of a councillor has the effect of disqualifying that member from their public body and terminating membership of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, joint board or any other body on which that member sits as a representative of their local authority.
- (b) Direct that the member be removed from membership, and disqualified in respect of membership, of any other devolved public body (provided the members’ code applicable to that body is then in force) and may disqualify that person from office as the Water Industry Commissioner.

In some cases the Standards Commission do not have the legislative powers to deal with sanctions, for example if the respondent is an executive member of the board or appointed by the Queen. Sections 23 and 24 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 refer.

Full details of the sanctions are set out in Section 19 of the Act.

ANNEX B

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

“Chair” includes Board Convener or any person discharging similar functions under alternative decision making structures.

“Code” code of conduct for members of devolved public bodies

“Cohabitee” includes a person, whether of the opposite sex or not, who is living with you in a relationship similar to that of husband and wife.

“Group of companies” has the same meaning as “group” in section 474(1) of the Companies Act 2006. A “group”, within section 474 (1) of the Companies Act 2006, means a parent undertaking and its subsidiary undertakings.

“Parent Undertaking” is an undertaking in relation to another undertaking, a subsidiary undertaking, if a) it holds a majority of the rights in the undertaking; or b) it is a member of the undertaking and has the right to appoint or remove a majority of its board of directors; or c) it has the right to exercise a dominant influence over the undertaking (i) by virtue of provisions contained in the undertaking’s memorandum or articles or (ii) by virtue of a control contract; or d) it is a councillor of the undertaking and controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders or councillors, a majority of the rights in the undertaking.

“A person” means a single individual or legal person and includes a group of companies.

“Any person” includes individuals, incorporated and unincorporated bodies, trade unions, charities and voluntary organisations.

“Public body” means a devolved public body listed in Schedule 3 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, as amended.

“Related Undertaking” is a parent or subsidiary company of a principal undertaking of which you are also a director. You will receive remuneration for the principal undertaking though you will not receive remuneration as director of the related undertaking.

“Remuneration” includes any salary, wage, share of profits, fee, expenses, other monetary benefit or benefit in kind. This would include, for example, the provision of a company car or travelling expenses by an employer.

“Spouse” does not include a former spouse or a spouse who is living separately and apart from you.

“Undertaking” means:

- a) a body corporate or partnership; or
- b) an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business, with or without a view to a profit.