

Canterbury Regional Council

Councillor declaration of interest register

The guiding principle for Councillors' declarations in the interests register is set out in the Members' Code of Conduct, which states:

"Honesty and Integrity – Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour"

In addition, the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 is concerned with members' financial and non-financial interests. The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when: *"A member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest or duty that the member or official may have."*¹

Keeping a Councillors' declaration of interest register (both financial and non-financial) allows the Council to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises. The register should also include any such interest(s) held by a Councillor's partner or spouse.

Guidance on conflicts of interest is included in Councillors' Code of Conduct, which provides that the register should be reviewed annually, and in the Office of the Auditor-General's Good Practice Guide.

If a Councillor is in any doubt as to whether or not a particular course of action (including a decision to take no action) raises a conflict of interest, then the Member should seek guidance from the Chief Executive *immediately*.

The information in the completed declarations will be publicly available on Council's website.

Type of interest	Description
Employment, trade or profession carried on by the Councillor or the Councillor's spouse for profit or gain	Spouse – Employee at GHD, Christchurch. Multi-disciplinary engineering and planning consultancy.
Company, trust, partnership etc for which the Councillor or their spouse is a director, partner or trustee	
Address of any land in which the Councillor has a beneficial interest and which is in the area of Environment Canterbury	40 Landsdowne Terrace, Christchurch

¹ Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for public entities

<p>The address of any land where the landlord is Environment Canterbury and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Councillor or their spouse is a tenant; or the land is tenanted by a firm in which the Councillor or spouse is a partner, a company of which the Councillor or spouse is a director, or a Trust of which the Councillor or spouse is a Trustee. 	
<p>Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Councillor's actions during the course of their duties as a Councillor</p>	<p>Family membership of Forest and Bird. Family membership of Fish and Game. Sumner Environment Coordinator for the Mahoe Nui Bush Restoration Project Shares in Lyttleton Collett's Corner OHU Project.</p>

The information contained in this statement is to the best of my knowledge complete and accurate as at the below date. I confirm that I have included in this statement details of any interests held by me or my partner/spouse through trusts or companies.

Signed V. Southworth Date 8/07/2021

Councillor V. Southworth

NB: Gifts register: Where a gift to the value of \$50 or more is offered to Councillors in their capacity as a Councillor, the Councillor must immediately disclose this to the Chief Executive in writing for inclusion in the gifts register provided by management for this purpose.