

The revised Code – declaring interests

Scenario

Councillor Andrews, Councillor Belsize, Councillor Craddock and Councillor Dibley require advice in relation to the following scenario:

Faraway International Airport is one of the UK's fastest growing airports. It employs over 400 people directly and over 7,000 indirectly. The airport is now one of the major economic drivers of the regional economy.

The airport is publicly owned by Faraway Metropolitan Borough Council (Faraway Council) but is operated, managed and developed by a private consortium – Faraway International Airport Operations Ltd (the airport company).

Each year, a member of Faraway Council is nominated to serve as non-executive director of the airport company. The current Faraway Council nominee is Councillor Belsize.

The airport company has submitted a planning application to Faraway Council for an extension to build a new runway, terminal and super-casino. The airport runway plans involve purchasing properties adjacent to the airport in the ward of Plumpton. The application has complied with all relevant regulatory assessments and procedures and is expected to go before the development control committee of Faraway Council for approval shortly. Among the existing membership of the development control committee are Councillor Andrews and Councillor Dibley.

Last year, the development control committee approved a related planning application to relax conditions restricting passenger numbers and air transport movement.

Alongside the proposals for the airport extension, the airport company will continue to provide significant financial contributions to meet the costs of regeneration plans surrounding the airport and in the Faraway city centre, particularly improving transport links. Over the last two years, the airport company has given substantial donations to a number of community projects and Faraway Primary School.

Councillor Craddock is a Local Education Authority (LEA) nominated school governor of Faraway Primary School. He was recently elected as a borough councillor on the single issue of "Stop the Airport Runway" and is also a parish councillor, but not for a ward directly affected by the airport redevelopment. He has given notice of his intention to attend the meeting on behalf of the people of Plumpton.

Councillor Andrews' sister owns an orchard, which will be compulsorily acquired to extend the airport runway extension. Councillor Andrews campaigned in the election against the building of the runway. She is also a member of the environmental group Friends of the Earth and has taken a leading role in the group's campaign against the airport expansion.

continues overleaf

Councillor Belsize is a cabinet member for regeneration and environment. In 2002, she was appointed to the board of a regeneration company set up to facilitate a large-scale land purchase to enable development of the northern part of the town centre. She has given notice of her intention to attend the planning meeting to put the case for the airport extension.

Councillor Dibley's mother-in-law is the chair of the board of the airport company. Councillor Dibley is also the owner of a much despised local business that breeds animals for drug testing.

Warning

It should be noted that this scenario is based on our best understanding of how the Code of Conduct is likely to change. Should the changes to the Code of Conduct be different to those we have anticipated, the specific examples in this scenario will become redundant.