

Lochgelly Community Council – Conflict of Interest

- 1.1 The community which we serve should have full confidence that all decisions and actions taken by Community Councillors are as objective and as impartial as possible.
- 1.2 In the role of a Community Councillor, conflicts of interest can fall broadly into three possible categories
 - Personal
 - Professional
 - Political
- 1.3 The purpose of this guide is to ensure that no impression can be created which would suggest that you are using your position to promote your own personal, professional or political view rather than what is in the best interests of the people of Lochgelly.
- 1.4 The following list is not exhaustive, and if you are in any doubt, or if it is reasonable for a member of the public to gain the impression of a conflict, then you are advised to declare an interest at the earliest possible meeting of the Community Council before engaging in any action. This will ensure that both yours and the Council's image is protected from undue criticism.

2.0 Personal

- 2.1 If there is potential whereby you would or could be seen to benefit, directly or indirectly, from a decision taken by the Community Council then you must declare an interest and not participate in that decision or debate.
- 2.2 If there is potential for family members or close friends to benefit, or could be seen to benefit from a decision taken by the Community Council then you must declare an interest and not participate in that decision or debate.
- 2.3 You should not use or be seen to use the Community Council to raise individual personal problems or complaints. These should be raised through the recognised procedures available to all citizens.
- 2.4 The aforementioned includes financial benefits.

3.0 Professional

- 3.1 You must not use the Community Council to promote, or be seen to promote, any professional interests which you may have and thereby gain from.
- 3.2 If you or any other organisation that you are engaged with may benefit, or be seen to benefit, from your actions you must declare an interest and not participate in that decision or debate.
- 3.3 You may be in a position whereby information available to the Community Council would benefit you or any other organisation that you are engaged with. You must not share this information where any future decisions would, or could be seen to benefit from it.
- 3.4 For avoidance of doubt, to 'gain' means financial or otherwise benefit from a decision or debate.

4.0 Political

- 4.1 As a Community Councillor you may also be a member of a political organisation. So long as that organisation complies with the aims, values and objectives of the community council then this isn't of any concern. You must not, however, use the Community Council to promote any political parties belief, policy or opinion.
- 4.2 You may be in a position whereby information available to the Community Council would, or could be seen to benefit, the political organisation which you are either affiliated, an active or non-active member or supporter of. You must not share this information.
- 4.3 You must promote, and be seen to promote, political neutrality at all times when on Community Council business. This would include ensuring that all Local Fife Council elected representatives are invited to attend Community Council meetings, site visits, functions and so on.