

Councillor Code of Conduct

Our Councillor Code of Conduct was reviewed and adopted on 12 June 2019. It is available on the Moreland Council website.

The code sets out the standards of conduct expected of councillors. The aim of the code is to foster good working relations between councillors so they can work constructively together in the best interests of the local community.

Conflict of interest

Councillors are elected by residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. This is a position of trust that requires councillors to act in the public interest. Council officers also need to act in the public interest when undertaking their duties and functions.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise, or might be perceived to compromise, the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

We have a procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all council meetings. This declaration also takes place before the start of procurement and recruitment processes.

We reviewed our Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy for Councillors in November 2019. This policy sets out practices to avoid the potential for conflict of interest through the offer/acceptance of gifts, benefits and hospitality. The procedures vary depending on the role and circumstances.

In general, they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way, then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. We maintain a register to record all disclosed conflict of interests.

During 2019-20, 18 conflict of interest disclosures were made at council meetings. There were no conflict of interest declarations added to the register for council officers.