

# Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

## Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



### What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test	Predetermination Test
In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased	At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

**If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.**

For more information or advice please contact [monitoringofficer@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@rutland.gov.uk)

## Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

## Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

## Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

## Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

## Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so

## Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

## Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

**PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE  
PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLACES**