



THE NEWCASTLE CHARTER

Part 5.4K – Protocol – Offers of New Employment

Notes: -

This constitutes a local protocol and is not part of the code of conduct for members under the Localism Act 2011.

It provides guidance on how members should deal with offers of new employment.

Authorisation

This was originally approved by City Council on 24 May 2006. Minor changes were made in 2008 to reflect the revised Members' Code of Conduct.

Further changes have been made in 2012 to reflect the new Members' Code of Conduct.

PROTOCOL - OFFERS OF NEW EMPLOYMENT

The purpose of this Protocol is to avoid potential conflicts of interest when a Member receives a new job offer.

The provisions of this Protocol apply to all Members which includes both Councillors and Voting Co-optees.

Introduction

Under paragraph 11(a) of the Code of Conduct for Members (Part 5.2A of the Newcastle Charter) a Member must register any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. Written notification has to be given to the Monitoring Officer, c/o the Service Manager Democratic Services. Paragraph 11 of the Code of Conduct also provides that a Member must also notify the Monitoring Officer of any changes in such interests.

The nature of a Member's employment will therefore come to officers' attention at that stage and, if necessary, advice can be given about any potential conflicts of interest.

However, there may be potential difficulties in the period between a Member receiving a new job offer and actually starting the post.

The situations in which Members may receive new job offers are many and varied, and the implications will depend very much on the nature of the job and the responsibilities of the Member. It is therefore important that Members seek advice on receiving any new job offers.

Protocol

Any Member who receives an offer of new employment (whether or not the offer is to be accepted) must report that fact to the Service Manager Democratic Services who will then be able to judge whether any potential conflicts of interest arise and give (or seek) the necessary advice about the Member's position.