

Clause 15, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002

15 Code of conduct

- (1) A local authority must adopt a code of conduct for members of the local authority as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The code of conduct must set out—
 - (a) understandings and expectations adopted by the local authority about the manner in which members may conduct themselves while acting in their capacity as members, including—
 - (i) behaviour toward one another, staff, and the public; and
 - (ii) disclosure of information, including (but not limited to) the provision of any document, to elected members that—
 - (A) is received by, or is in the possession of, an elected member in his or her capacity as an elected member; and
 - (B) relates to the ability of the local authority to give effect to any provision of this Act; and
 - (b) a general explanation of—
 - (i) the [Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987](#); and
 - (ii) any other enactment or rule of law applicable to members.
- (3) A local authority may amend or replace its code of conduct, but may not revoke it without replacement.
- (4) A member of a local authority must comply with the code of conduct of that local authority.
- (5) A local authority must, when adopting a code of conduct, consider whether it must require a member or newly elected member to declare whether or not the member or newly elected member is an undischarged bankrupt.
- (6) After the adoption of the first code of conduct, an amendment of the code of conduct or the adoption of a new code of conduct requires, in every case, a vote in support of the amendment of not less than 75% of the members present.
- (7) To avoid doubt, a breach of the code of conduct does not constitute an offence under this Act.