

Declaration of Interests

Thank you for your email seeking clarification about disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs).

For an issue to be considered a DPI it must relate to a registered interest. In the examples you have provided this would be a councillor's property. For example, a DPI would arise if a councillor submitted a planning application for their own property.

It is quite appropriate for local councillors to take part in matters which affect themselves in the same way as they affect their community. However, it would not be appropriate for a councillor to take part if it is likely that their judgement would be clouded by their proximity to a development or scheme and the potentially controversial nature of a development or scheme. This constitutes bias and is not a DPI issue.

In respect of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, each councillor will need to determine whether a member of the public would think it right to participate in the decision if it clearly affects them and their property. Just because a councillor living in the village could benefit from the scheme does not constitute an interest. However, it is likely that a councillor who lives next to the site should not take part in the decision because of perceived bias in the matter.

I trust the above clarifies the position.

Regards

Steven Corrigan

Democratic Services Manager

on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils