

PART 11

Indemnities for Members and Officers

Indemnities for Members and Officers

1. The Council will, subject to the exceptions set out below, indemnify each of its councillors and employees against any loss or damage suffered by the councillor or officer arising from his/her action or failure to act in his/her capacity as a councillor or officer of the authority.

This indemnity will not extend to loss or damage directly or indirectly caused by or arising from:

- 1.1. any criminal offence, fraud or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of the councillor or officer;
 - 1.2. any act or failure to act by the councillor or employee otherwise than in his/her capacity as a councillor or officer of the authority, or
 - 1.3. failure by the councillor to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors.
2. The Council will, subject to the exceptions set out below, indemnify each of its councillors and officers against the reasonable costs which he/she may incur in securing appropriate legal advice and representation in respect of any civil or criminal proceedings to which he/she is subject.
 - 2.1. "Criminal proceedings" includes any interview or investigation by the Police, and any proceedings before a criminal court, in the United Kingdom.
 - 2.2. This indemnity shall not extend to any advice or representation in pursuit of any claim or threatened claim in defamation by a councillor or officer.
 - 2.3. Where any councillor or officer avails him/herself of this indemnity in respect of defending him/herself against any criminal proceedings, the indemnity is subject to a condition that if, in respect of the matter in relation to which the councillor or officer has made use of this indemnity –
 - 2.3.1. the councillor or officer is convicted of a criminal offence in consequence of such proceedings, or
 - 2.3.2. and the conviction or determination is not overturned on appeal, the councillor shall reimburse the Council for any sums expended by the Council pursuant to the indemnity.

- 2.4. Where the Council arranges insurance to cover its liability under this indemnity, the requirement to reimburse in Paragraph 2 shall apply as if references to the Council were references to the insurer.
3. For the purpose of these indemnities, a loss or damage shall be deemed to have arisen to the councillor or officer "in his/her capacity as a councillor or officer of the authority" where:
 - 3.1. The act or failure to act was outside the powers of the Council, or outside the powers of the councillor or officer, but the councillor or officer reasonably believed that the act or failure to act was within the powers of the Council or within the powers of the councillor or officer (as appropriate) at the time that he/she acted or failed to act, as the case may be;
 - 3.2. The act or failure to act occurred not in the discharge of the functions of the councillor or officer as a councillor or officer of the Council but in their capacity as a councillor or employee of another organisation, where the councillor or officer is, at the time of the action or failure to act, a councillor or employee of that organisation either –
 - 3.2.1. in consequence of his/her appointment as such councillor or officer of that organisation by the Council; or
 - 3.2.2. in consequence of his/her nomination for appointment as such councillor or officer of that organisation by the Council; or
 - 3.2.3. where the Council has specifically approved such appointment as such a councillor or employee of that organisation for the purpose of these indemnities.
4. The Council undertakes not to sue (or join in action as co-defendant) an officer of the council in respect of any negligent act or failure to act by the officer in his/her capacity as an officer of the Council, subject to the following exceptions:
 - 4.1. Any criminal offence, fraud or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of the officer; or
 - 4.2. Any act or failure to act by the officer otherwise than in his/her capacity as a councillor or officer of the authority.

5. These indemnities and undertaking will not apply if a councillor or officer, without the express permission of the Council or of the appropriate officer of the Council, admits liability or negotiates or attempts to negotiate a settlement of any claim falling within the scope of the resolution.
6. These indemnities and undertaking are without prejudice to the rights of the Council to take disciplinary action against an officer in respect of any act or failure to act.
7. These indemnities and undertaking shall apply retrospectively to any act or failure to act which may have occurred before this date and shall continue to apply after the councillor or officer has ceased to be a councillor or officer of the authority as well as during his/her councillorship or employment by the authority.