



**Summary of a report issued under section 69
of the Local Government Act 2000
Case Number: 202304011**

The Ombudsman received a complaint that a Member (“the Member”) of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (“the Council”) had breached the Code of Conduct.

It was alleged that the Member had failed to declare personal and prejudicial interests to the Council when becoming involved in a constituent’s planning application to extend their home.

Information was obtained from the Complainant, the Member and the Council’s Monitoring Officer. The Ombudsman found that while the Member appeared to have failed to declare her interest when she first became involved in the matter and when she asked the Council to call in the planning application, she subsequently followed the advice of the Monitoring Officer and withdrew her call-in request. The Member also made sure she adhered to the Code of Conduct in declaring her interest appropriately when the matter progressed.

In all the circumstances, the Ombudsman did not consider that action was needed in the public interest. The Ombudsman reminded the Member of her need to consider carefully her interests, and whether they needed to be declared in the future, because a failure to declare prejudicial interests appropriately can undermine the public’s confidence in elected officials and their authority.

Under Section 69(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 2000, the Ombudsman found that no action needed to be taken in respect of the matters investigated.

25 March 2024