

23 CODE ON COUNCILLOR-OFFICER RELATIONS

23.7 Deductions from Members' Allowances

There will be a 15% reduction from the payment of future allowances for those Members who attend less than two thirds of the scheduled meetings required within a Special Responsibility.

There will be a 15% reduction from the payment of future Basic Allowance for:

- Members who fail to attend more than four meetings of Full Council in any municipal year except when a serious medical condition is the reason for absence;
- Members who fail to attend the induction training for newly elected or ~~re-elected~~ Councillors. A newly elected Councillor is any Councillor who was not holding City Council office before the election in question.

There will be a 10% reduction from the payment of future Basic Allowance for:

- Members who fail to attend the ~~annual~~ planning and development control training and ~~code of conduct~~ training held every two years;
- Members who fail to attend the annual code of conduct training; or
- Members who are nominated to ~~of~~ a Licensing Committee who fail to attend the annual licensing training.

23.9 Information and advice

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(d) Ward Councillors

Senior officers should ensure that ward Councillors are given information relevant to their ward on a regular basis. As well as letting Ward Members know when there has been a significant incident in their ward, ward Members should be routinely notified about the following types of issue:

- Public consultation events affecting their wards;
- Proposed changes to services sited within their wards;
- Proposed anti-social dispersal orders.

Ward Councillors should be invited by Officers to public events, such as openings, festivals etc., in their wards regardless of political affiliation.

The ~~Media team~~ Communications Team will advise group leaders of any 'photo shoot' that it has organised in connection with a significant event taking place. The team will aim to give 48 hours' notice of any photo shoot it has organised to the group Leaders.

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23.14 Media releases and publicity

(g) Invitations to media events which are of key significance to the City of Oxford or the Council

Representatives of each political group will be invited to all media events involving Councillors which are of key significance to the City of Oxford or the Council. The Communications Team will liaise with the Leader, Board Member or Committee Chair when setting up such media events involving Councillors. This will not apply to marketing or campaign work.

(i) Scrutiny

The work of the Scrutiny Committee is an important and integral part of the political arrangements of the Council for the purposes of media liaison. In particular:

- Media statements and interviews on ~~s~~Scrutiny matters will be made by the convenor of the relevant Scrutiny panel or their substitute in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee or, if appropriate, by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.
- ~~Interviews on Scrutiny matters will be given by the convenor of the appropriate Scrutiny Panel, their substitute or, if appropriate, by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.~~
- Members of Scrutiny panels and the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee will be offered relevant support and advice to enable them to play a proactive role in presenting issues to the media and explain their work.
- Where a minority report is released by a Member or Members of a Scrutiny Panel, media statements will be made in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and will be the responsibility of those issuing the report.
- Where the Communications Team is asked to draft press releases/letters on behalf of Scrutiny, such releases/letters will be of a factual nature and will contain nothing that could be construed as politically motivated or biased.
- All official Scrutiny press releases will be issued by the Communications Team in the standard format.