

WESSEX WATER PARTNERSHIP

Code of conduct

S Lindsay, 26 January 2017

The Wessex Water Partnership operates within a terms of reference agreed at the first meeting in January 2016.

The Chair is paid an annual salary and has a contract of employment with Wessex Water. Annual donations will be given to charitable organisations represented on the Partnership to acknowledge time given.

Wessex Water wanted to further demonstrate the independence of the Wessex Water Partnership, so a Trust Fund has been set up to act as the vehicle to pay both the Chair's monthly salary and the annual donations. A lump sum payment will be made into the Trust to cover all costs of the Partnership for the next three years.

Osborne Clarke, a legal practice, has set up the Trust. There are two trustees, Osborne Clarke and the Chair of the Consumer Council for Water (national). All legal documents have been signed and the Trust will go live in the next month once the bank account has been finalised.

The Consumer Council for Water have asked that all members sign up to a Code of Conduct. This is standard for a group of this kind. They will use this alongside the terms of reference to monitor whether the Chair and members of the Partnership are fulfilling their duties. The company will provide a report to the Trustees each year.

The proposed code of conduct was drafted by the Consumer Council for Water and is attached as Appendix 1. It has been agreed with the Chair.

Recommendation

The Partnership members are asked to approve and adopt the Code of Conduct.

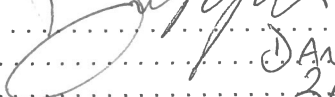
Wessex Water Partnership

Code of Conduct

It is the responsibility of the Wessex Water Partnership Chair and members to:

- Act within the Partnership's terms of reference – being aware of the contents of the terms of reference and the principles¹ it applies to
- Demonstrate independence and ability to operate independently of Wessex Water
- Act with integrity and in the best interest of water and sewerage customers – putting customers' views and priorities above their own personal interests
- Manage conflicts of interest effectively – registering, declaring and resolving conflicts of interest and not gaining materially or financially unless specifically authorised to do so
- Declare and register gifts or hospitality other than trivial items
- Respect confidentiality – understanding what confidentiality means in practice for the Wessex Water Partnership, Wessex Water and the individuals involved with it
- Have a sound and up-to-date knowledge of the Wessex Water Partnership and its environment – understanding how the Partnership works and the environment within which it operates
- Attend meetings and other appointments or give apologies – considering other ways of engaging with Wessex Water if members are regularly unable to attend Partnership meetings
- Prepare fully for meetings and all work for the Wessex Water Partnership – reading papers, querying anything members don't understand and thinking through issues in good time before meetings
- Actively engage in discussion, debate and voting in meetings – contributing positively, listening carefully, challenging sensitively and basing views on analysis of the evidence
- Work considerately and respectfully with all – respecting diversity, different roles and boundaries and avoiding giving offence.

The Chair and members are expected to honour the content and spirit of this code.

Signed 
Name DAN R. CORSON
Date 26TH JANUARY 2017

¹ Such as Ofwat Information Notes