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- 5.1. As a councillor, you may fulfil a number of different roles in relation to planning matters. For example:
- you may be lobbied to act as an advocate for or against a particular planning proposal;
  - you may be a decision-maker in relation to a planning application, either as a member of your council's planning committee or as a member of the full council;
  - you may be made aware of an alleged breach of planning control; or
  - you may have a role in the development of local planning policy.
- 5.2 Part 9 of the Code highlights your obligations with regard to the disclosure of interests, lobbying and decision making, which are of particular relevance to a role you may have in relation to a planning matter. Guidance on the Rules concerning these obligations is provided in Part 4 of this document. You should bear in mind, however, that other Rules not specifically referenced in Part 9 of the Code, such as those relating to the improper use of your position, compromising impartiality or your behaviour towards other people, also apply to your conduct when you fulfil a role in relation to the planning aspect of your council's functions. The sections of this guidance that relate to those other Rules are therefore also relevant in relation to your role in planning matters.
- 5.3 In addition, the Department has produced separate guidance<sup>18</sup> on how the Code applies to you when you are dealing with planning matters. You should ensure you are familiar with that guidance in order that you have a clear and full understanding of all your obligations under the Code. The guidance can be found at:
- [http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news\\_other/news\\_guidance\\_planning\\_element\\_cllr\\_code\\_of\\_conduct\\_27022015.htm](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news_other/news_guidance_planning_element_cllr_code_of_conduct_27022015.htm)

<sup>18</sup> Application of the Councillors' Code of Conduct with regard to Planning Matters







