

REVIEW OF THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' AND CO-OPTES' DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FORMS	
STANDARDS COMMITTEE 16 FEBRUARY 2015	CLASSIFICATION: OPEN
WARD(S) AFFECTED ALL WARDS	
GIFTY EDILA CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities to adopt a Code of Conduct for its elected Members and voting co-optees.

1.2 The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 requires all Members to complete a declaration of interests form on their election to office, and for voting co-optees to complete a form on their appointment to office.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Standards Committee is asked to note the report.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1 The report is for noting and lessons learnt from this review would enable further work to be carried out to assist Members and Co-optees in completing the form.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

5.1 As stated in the introduction, the Localism Act 2011 established the ethical framework. The Regulations made under the Act placed obligations on elected Members and voting co-optees to disclose their pecuniary interests.

5.2 The Council in its own Code of Conduct also requires non-voting co-optees to complete a declaration of interests form.

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 On 22 May 2014 the local elections took place and the current 57 councillors and the Mayor were elected to office. They all completed a declaration of interest form for the register.

6.2 Each form completed by a Member or co-optee was carefully checked by the Monitoring Officer and where necessary guidance given on how to complete it fully and accurately.

6.3 Members have been advised of the need to update their forms within 28 days of change of circumstances. Some Members have already updated their forms since the election.

6.4 The Monitoring Officer has reviewed all the forms before writing this report. The following observations are made:

- Three Members gave their spouses name even though they are not required to give names.
- Two Members had been appointed Council representative on an external body and needed to add this to their forms.

6.5 The Members were advised to amend their forms accordingly.

6.6 Members have done extremely well to complete their forms accurately and within the requisite timescale. They will continue to be reminded periodically to update their forms when their circumstances change.

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