

REVIEW OF THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' AND CO-OPTES' DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM	
STANDARDS COMMITTEE 12 February 2018	CLASSIFICATION: Open
WARD(S) AFFECTED All Wards	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR TIM SHIELDS – CHIEF EXECUTIVE	

1. SUMMARY

- 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 This report is for noting and an annual review of the forms, will continue to help develop the arrangements for managing Members' declaration of interests.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

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

- 5.1 The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 provides that Members and co-optees must complete a declaration of interest form.
- 5.2 The Council's Code of Conduct has implemented the Regulations and provides that all Members and co-optees (including non-voting co-optees) must complete a declaration of interest form.
- 5.3 Standards Committee further requires regular review of compliance with the Regulations and the Code of Conduct by the Monitoring Officer.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Localism Act 2011 places an obligation on all local authorities to promote high ethical standards in public office.
- 6.2 Regulations also require Members and co-optees to be transparent and declare all disclosable interests on their declaration of interest form.
- 6.3 The declaration of interests forms are held in a hard copy register and on the Council's website as well.
- 6.4 Governance Services having reviewed the forms and discovered that all Members have completed and submitted a form. However, a small number of members have not updated their form since 2012.

- 6.5 Given that this is an Election year, all Members elected in May 2018 will be required to complete an ROI form within 28 days of taking up office. Governance and Member Services will ensure that this is done.
- 6.6 Appropriate advice and guidance will be sent to Members as and when necessary, to keep them updated on case law relating to declarations of interest.

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