

Review of the current Members Declarations of Interests Form	
STANDARDS COMMITTEE 13 February 2020	CLASSIFICATION: Open
WARD(S) AFFECTED All Wards	
Dawn Carter-McDonald Head of Legal and Governance	

1. SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide the Council’s Standards Committee with an update of the review of the Members Declaration of Interests form arising from a recommendation of the Standards Committee of 16 September 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Standards Committee:

2.1 notes the findings of the Member Working Group of 11 November 2019 attached at Appendix 1 in respect of a short review of the current Members

Register of Interests Declarations Form, following the request of Standards Committee of 16 September to review the current Members Register of Interests Form attached at Appendix 2; and

2.2 Considers and agrees the proposed revised new Members Declarations of Interests Form attached at Appendix 3 for use by Members for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

3.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 16 September considered findings of the Government's Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) review on the subject of local government ethical standards.

3.2 In considering the report the Standards Committee during its wide ranging discussions particularly commented on the existing LB Hackney register of gifts and hospitality and general declarations form, and concerns that it was not particularly helpful or clear .

3.3 The committee felt that it was an opportune time to review and suggest a clearer summary of what should and should not be declared, and it was therefore agreed that a task and finish group comprising of members and officers look at the issues of declarations, and explanations of what was best practice and examples of what things should be recorded.

3.4 The task and finish group met on 11 November 2019 and carried out a succinct and robust review of the current declaration form and as a result a number of changes were recommended as detailed in Appendix 1 attached.

3.5 Following on from the task and finish group officers then revised the existing declarations form (shown at appendix 2) and are proposing the adoption of a new declaration form at Appendix 3. The new form attempts to answer some of the concerns raised regarding ambiguity and now shows a much clearer and better explanation of what is being requested.

3.6 The Committee is therefore asked to consider the findings of the Task and Finish Group and the proposed changes to the existing form and to agree to adopt the new form for use by members from the beginning of the Municipal Year 2020/21.

4. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

6. Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising out this report.

Background papers

None

Dawn Cater-McDonald
Head of Legal & Governance

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Findings of Task & Finish Group

Appendix 2

Current Members Declarations Form

Appendix 3

Proposed New Members Declarations Form

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