



CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

1.0 Summary:

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the latest position with regard to standards matters including the Code of Conduct, the Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) and Other Interests and any complaints against Councillors dealt with under the Council's process.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **The update on the position of standards matters including Parishes' Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and complaints against Councillors dealt with under the provisions of the Localism Act be noted.**

3.0 Report Detail

3.1 Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests

Following the Borough and Parish elections on 2 May 2019, both Borough and Parish Councillors are required to complete a new Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) form within 28 days of their election. This is a legal requirement and to not disclose this information is a criminal offence.

3.2 Complaints

At the time of writing the report, there are three complaints in progress.

4.0 Consultation and Feedback

- 4.1 There is consultation with the Independent Person on Councillor complaints and Parish Representatives are also consulted on Parish Councillor complaints in line with the legislation.

5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 To publish a full register of Borough and Parish Councillors' disclosable pecuniary interests to the website.
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6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 Any financial implications are able to be met from existing resources. However following the Borough and Parish elections the registering of Members' interests and publishing these to the website has a significant impact on the Council's Democratic Services resources.

7.0 Legal and Governance Implications:

7.1 The Localism Act includes that the non-registration of a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days is a criminal offence.

8.0 Equality and Safeguarding Implications:

8.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed and outlines the Council's responsibilities with regard to matters within the report under the Localism Act.

9.0 Community Safety Implications:

9.1 There are no specific community safety implications in this report.

10.0 Other Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

11.0 Risk & Mitigation:

11.1 The risks associated with the report are low and marginal and are considered to relate to managing the requirements of the Localism Act. The implications of this not being followed by Councillors would impact on the Council's decision-making process and reputation and should disclosable interests not be made known to the Monitoring Officer, these could have an impact on decisions being challenged due to processes not followed in line with legislation and the Council's agreed process. To mitigate information not being made available and deadlines not being met, regular reminders are sent to both Borough and Parish Councillors to ensure their DPIs are registered and up to date.

Background Papers:

All documents listed are previously published :-
Localism Act 2011
Minutes of Council Meeting held on 18 July 2012
Minutes of Council Meeting held on 17 July 2013
Minutes of Council Meeting held on 11 December 2013
Previous Minutes of Governance Committee.

Appendices

None

Report Timeline:

Equalities Check & Challenge	Not applicable
SLT Sign off	Not applicable
Previously Considered by Cabinet	Not applicable
Director Approval	3 June 2019
Chief Finance Officer Sign Off	3 June 2019
Monitoring Officer Sign Off	3 June 2019

Exempt Reports

Not applicable

Date of Review to make public (Exempt Reports only)

Not applicable

Report Author & Job Title

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