

Non-Executive Report of the: Standards (Advisory) Committee Thursday, 17 January 2019	
Report of: Asmat Hussain Corporate Director Governance	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Members Register of Interests	

Originating Officer(s)	Beverley McKenzie
Wards affected	All Ward

Executive Summary

This report updates the Committee on the Elected and Co-opted Members' Register of Interests and the information published on the Council website.

Recommendations:

The Standards (Advisory) Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the information set out in Appendix 1 in relation to the completion of the register of interests during the current municipal year.
2. Note the arrangements for the publication of personal information for Councillors, including the exemptions for sensitive information.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The report has been provided to the Standards Advisory Committee for noting and no decision is required.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Committee could choose not to consider this report, but it is recommended as good practise for the Standards (Advisory) Committee to keep itself up to date with issues around Member Interests.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Members' Register of Interests

- 3.1 Members are required to complete a declaration of their interests within 28 days of their appointment and thereafter they must notify any changes to this within 28 days of becoming aware of the change.
- 3.2 A detailed review of each of the register of interests was undertaken in November/December 2018 to ensure that all appointments by the authority were updated, and all other information was consistent with the information held by the Council.
- 3.3 With Gifts and Hospitality declarations now completed as a separate register, updates to the Register of Interests may not be as frequent as in past.
- 3.4 The dates of submission for all Members has been included as Appendix 1. All councillors have updated their register of interests following the May elections.

Publication of Register of Interest and Personal Details

- 3.5 The Declaration of Interests provided by Elected Members is published on the Council's website, under the Councillor web pages. For Co-opted Members the Declaration of Interests is published under the Co-opted Members details, under the specific committee. There has been some concern raised regarding the disclosure of the personal information and the possibility that the public could access a Member's personal information.
- 3.6 The Localism Act 2011(section 29) requires that the Members' register is available for inspection within the authority and that the register is published on the authority's website.
- 3.7 The Act makes provision for the non-publication of the sensitive interests, where the Member and the Monitoring Officer consider that the disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the Member or a person connected with the Member to be subject to violence or intimidation.
- 3.8 In such situations, the Members' register of interest will continue to be published on the website, however, the specific details of the interest will be withheld and the item will reflect "Not shown on web site".

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the noting of this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
- 5.2 There are no other statutory implications for this report, as it is for noting only.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This is a noting report. There are no financial implications arising from the contents of the report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that the Monitoring Officer must establish and maintain a register of interests of members and co-opted members of the authority. Section 29(5) of the Act provides that the Monitoring Officer must secure that a copy of the register is available for inspection at a place in the authority's area at all reasonable hours and that the register is published on the authority's website.
- 7.2 It is a requirement of section 30 of the Localism Act that a member or co-opted notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests for inclusion in the register within 28 days of becoming a member or co-opted member.
- 7.3 Section 32 of the Localism Act makes provision for sensitive interests. Section 32 applies to disclosable pecuniary interests and other interest which the authority has decided require registration. A sensitive interest is defined by section 32 as being where the member or co-opted member and the Monitoring Officer consider that the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member or a person connected with them being subject to violence or intimidation.
- 7.4 If a sensitive interest is entered in the register, section 32(2) of the Act provides that copies of the register that are made available for inspection and any published version of the register, must not include details of the interest

but may state that the member or co-opted member has an interest the details of which are withheld under section 32(2) of the Localism Act 2011.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- List any linked reports
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- State NONE if none.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Register of Interests Submitted

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A