

## **STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

### **18 OCTOBER 2023**

## **MEMBERS REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

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### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that the Members Register of Interests be updated so that it is in line with the Members Code of Conduct adopted at the Council meeting on 18 May 2023.**

### **Background**

2. All elected members are required by law to complete a register of interests form to provide details of any financial or other interests that might give rise to a conflict of interest, when undertaking their duties as a councillor. Each Councillor must register their interests within 28 days of taking office, and they are obliged by law to keep their statutory register up to date and to inform the council's Monitoring Officer of any changes within 28 days of the change occurring.
3. Section 29 Localism Act 2011 requires monitoring officers of relevant authorities to establish and maintain a register of members' and co-opted members' interests, to make the register available for inspection and to publish it on their authority's website.
4. The current Members Register of Interests requires members to register Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.
5. The Committee recommended at its meeting on 16 March 2023 that the Local Government Association member code of conduct be adopted by full Council as the County Council's Code of Conduct. Full Council accepted this recommendation at its meeting on 18 May 2023. A link to the Members Code of Conduct is at Appendix One.
6. The new Member Code of Conduct requires Councillors, in addition to registering Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, to register details of other person interests which fall under the categories as asset out in Table 2 of Appendix B of the Code of Conduct (see link to Code in Appendix One of this report.)
7. To comply with the Code Members must now register two different categories of interests:
  - i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – these are categories of interests which apply to you and your partner (spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners). The categories as set out in regulations made under s27 Localism Act 2011 and knowing non-compliance is a criminal offence.

- ii) Other registrable interests- these are interests which apply only to members (not their partner) and should be registered as an aid to transparency. Failure to register these interests is not covered by the criminal offence but would be a breach of the code.

8. The Assistant Director of Legal and Governance will update the Members Register of Interests so Members can register their other Registrable Interests as required by the Member Code of Conduct. A guidance note will be prepared for Councillors.

### **Legal implications**

- 9. The legal implications are set out within the body of the report.

### **Finance implications**

- 10. There are no finance implications arising from this report.

### **Supporting Information**

Appendix

[Members Code of Conduct](#)

### **Contact Points**

Specific Contact Points for this report

Hazel Best, Assistant Director for Legal and Governance

Tel: 01905 765609

Email: [hbest@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:hbest@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper office (in this case the Assistant Director of Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

[Link to agenda report pack for Council meeting on 18 May 2023](#)