

Meeting:	Standards Committee
Date:	19 September 2006
Subject:	Members' Register of Interests
Responsible Officer:	John Robinson, Director of Corporate Governance
Contact Officer:	John Robinson
Portfolio Holder:	Leader
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

To note the compliance of Members in entering their interests into the formal Register of Interests and the arrangements in place to update the Register to meet statutory requirements.

Reason for report

To advise the Standards Committee, further to its remit in this matter, on the compliance with the statutory requirements by the new Council, following the Borough Elections in May 2006.

Benefits

To enable the Standards Committee to be satisfied as to the compliance achieved or other wise to require action as might be appropriate to improve the current arrangements.

Cost of Proposals

None.

Risks

No proposals giving rise to additional risk.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Not applicable.

Section 2: Report

2. Background

- 2.1 The Code of Conduct for Councillors is a statutory element of Local Authority Constitutions, based on a model Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 The Code includes a requirement that the Members of the Authority maintain a Register of Interests, which is held by the Monitoring Officer. The requirements falling on individual Members with regard to registering their interests is set out in Part 3 of the Code of Conduct (within the Council's Constitution).
- 2.3 In order to assist Members in their duty to register interests, the Monitoring Officer provides each Councillor with a registration form together with instructions on how to complete the various sections and the Part 3 guidance as to the obligations.
- 2.4 The information process is updated regularly and at least every six months, with Members required to complete a new form, make amendments to the existing return or confirm that no change is necessary.
- 2.5 There is a specific requirement on Members to inform the Monitoring Officer of any change in their registrable interests within 28 days of becoming aware of such a change (this maintains the integrity of the Register between the six monthly reviews and protects the individual Member).

- 2.6 Following the Borough Elections in May there was a need to secure the registration of the interests held by Members elected for the first time, as well as renewing the registrations of re-elected Members.
- 2.7 The full compliance or otherwise by Members of Council elected in May 2006 in registering and/or renewing their entries in the Register of Electors will be advised to the meeting.

The next six monthly review reminder will be sent to Members in November 2006.

- 2.8 The Register of Members' Interests is open to public inspection.

Options Considered

None at this time, pending any views of the Committee on the current arrangements.

Consultation

Not applicable

Financial Implications

None.

Legal Implications

None

Equalities Impact

No impact.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

None.

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Background Documents: The Council's Constitution – Code of Conduct for Councillors