

**UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT AND REGISTER OF
DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
(Report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members may recall that under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011, the Monitoring Officer retained as a duty, a requirement to establish and maintain a register of interests of Members and Co-opted Members of the Authority (the District Council). The legislation also provided that the Monitoring Officer should continue to be responsible for maintaining the Register for Parish Councils which should be open for inspection at the District Council's offices and published on the District Council's website. Where a Parish Council has a website, the District Council also is required to provide that Council with the information required enabling them to publish their current register on its own website. Information in respect of the DPIs of each Parish Council is presented in the Appendix to this report.
- 1.2 As the Monitoring Officer also continued to have responsibility for dealing with complaints against Members of Parish Councils, all Councils were encouraged to adopt the same or largely similar code to that adopted by the District on 4th July 2012 or alternatively the "Model" produced by the National Association of Local Councils. All Town and Parish Councils were requested to advise the Monitoring Officer when their Council had adopted a new Code and to confirm whether it was identical to that of the District or NALCs.
- 1.3 This report describes the current position in relation to both of these matters.

2. THE CURRENT POSITION – DISPOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

- 2.1 As previously reported, and following adoption of a Code of Conduct by the District Council in July 2012, DPI forms have been received from all 52 District Councillors.
- 2.2 Of 71 Town and Parish Councils, 52 have had their register published (which comprises the DPIs of all Councillors) on the District Council's website and copies of their register returned to their Clerk for publication locally should that be possible.
- 2.3 In terms of individual DPIs, 534 of a total of 650 have been received from Parish Councillors and 76 are outstanding. For practical reasons, a Parish Council register is not published until the DPIs of all Councillors currently serving on the Parish Council have been received.
- 2.4 The Monitoring Officer continues to pursue those Parish Councils where DPI forms are still outstanding. Similarly, incomplete or inaccurate forms are returned to Parish Councils with a request to revise and return.

3. THE CURRENT POSITION – CODES OF CONDUCT

- 3.1 Whilst there is no legal obligation upon the Town and Parish Councils to notify the Monitoring Officer, records indicate that 71 Town and Parish

Councils have adopted a Code of Conduct. Fifty six of those Parish Councils have adopted a Code based on that adopted by the District Council. Ten Town and Parish Councils have opted for the Code promoted by NALC. Of the remainder, five have adopted their own version of the Code but having had sight of these the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that they are adequate for the purpose.

4. CONCLUSION

The Committee is requested to note the current position.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Register of DPIs

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