

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REVIEW OF REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS 18th June 2009

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Committee of the continuing monitoring of the registration of personal interests by City and Parish Councillors.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the report be noted

1.0 Introduction

1.1 As Members are aware, there is a requirement in the Code of Conduct for any changes to members' interests to be notified to the Monitoring Officer within twenty eight days. It is the Monitoring Officer's practice to undertake an annual review of registrations.

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 At the end of April 2009, a letter was sent to all Members of the City Council reminding them of the need to register any changes, and requesting either a signed declaration to the effect that there has been no change, or the return of a completed "change" form.

2.2 The letter requested a reply by the end of May 2009, by which time fifteen replies had been received. However, the Monitoring Officer is aware that some appointments to outside bodies, which need to be included in the register of interests, will not be made until Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee have met in June. In reminding Members of the need to reply, the Monitoring Officer has acknowledged that those Members affected should wait until the relevant appointment have been made. Information about the number of replies received will be updated at the meeting.

2.3 With regard to the parish councils, by virtue of the very number of councillors and the frequency of resignations and co-options, it is extremely difficult for the Monitoring Officer to ensure that the register contains an up to date registration form completed by each and every parish councillor. A check was undertaken last year, and in order

to ensure that the registrations of parish councillors are kept up to date, the Monitoring Officer has written to the clerks of all the parish councils within the district, requesting them to draw to the attention of their councillors the requirement to register any changes to their personal interests, and enclosing copies of the change form.

2.4 It is hoped that these actions will ensure that city and parish councillors maintain accurate register entries of their personal interests.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Registration of personal interests is a requirement of the Members' Code of Conduct.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her role as adviser to the Standards Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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