

South Lakeland District Council
Standards Committee

Monday, 11 October 2021

District Register of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Registrable Interests

Portfolio: Not Applicable
Report from: Monitoring Officer
Report Author: Linda Fisher – Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)

Wards: Not applicable

Forward Plan: Not applicable

Links to Council Plan Priorities:

Working across boundaries – N/A

Delivering a balanced community – N/A

A fairer South Lakeland – Openness and transparency will help to provide a fairer South Lakeland

Addressing the climate emergency – N/A

1.0 Expected Outcome and Measures of Success

1.1 The Standards Committee reviews the register of disclosable pecuniary and other interests for District Council Members and co-optees for the period to October 2021.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Standards Committee notes the review of the District register of interests.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 members are required to disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests as specified in regulations and any other interests which the Council has decided should be registered in the Interests form.

3.2 Council resolved on 19 June 2012 to adopt the other registrable interests as detailed in the register of interests form, and the Monitoring Officer is required to maintain the register and ensure that it is available for inspection, as required by the Act, which also includes being available on the Council's website. When looking at Councillor's details on the website there are links to the register of interest forms.

3.3 Following the District Council Elections in May 2021, all newly-elected Members have completed a form, with those having been re-elected all having either completed a new form or having confirmed that there have been no changes to their register of interests. In addition, Members not involved in the Elections were reminded to ensure that their registers are up to date.

- 3.3.1 Since the District Council Elections in May 2021, two District Councillors have resigned from their position. By-elections were held for Grange and Kendal North in August 2021 and September 2021 respectively electing two new Members to South Lakeland District Council. Councillor Hanlon's form has been published on the website, but due to the timing of the agenda despatch, Councillor Cornthwaite's is still outstanding. An update will be provided at the meeting.
- 3.4 The new Members have also received training on the Code of Conduct which was also offered to existing Members.
- 3.5 The seven Parish/Town Council Members co-opted onto the Lake Administration Committee following Parish Elections in May 2021, have all either completed a new form or have confirmed that there have been no changes to their register of interests.
- 3.6 Members are requested to note the annual review of the registers.
- 3.7 Following a request from members of the Standards Committee, officers have identified a way to streamline and modernise the process for Members to update their Declaration of Interest forms using the existing Mod.Gov system. Once set up and tested sufficiently, Members who use corporate kit will be able to update their Declaration of Interest form online (via the intranet) and submit the form directly to officers for checking and publication on the Council's website.
- 3.8 Officers are in the process of developing this system and will shortly seek volunteers to take part in tests before it is rolled out. It is expected that the system will be available to all Members by January 2022.

Confirmation of reading and understanding the new Councillor Code of Conduct

- 3.9 The Standards Committee should note that currently responses from eighteen Councillors are awaited to confirm that they have understood the new code of conduct. Additionally, thirty Councillors did not attend the Code of Conduct Training Session but will be sent the recording of the meeting to aid them in completing the training..

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 All members were consulted in ensuring that their register of interests were completed or up to date.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options. The annual review is part of the Committee's Work Programme.

6.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report but the register of interests is an essential step in identifying related parties for review and potential disclosure in the Council's Statement of Accounts which is then audited by the Council's external auditors and compared to national registers of company and charity directors.

Human Resources

- 6.2 No issues identified.

Legal

- 6.3 Members are required to ensure that they comply with the code of conduct and declare their disclosable pecuniary interests as appropriate. Failure to comply with the legislation with regard to disclose and participation at meetings on disclosable pecuniary interests is a criminal offence.

Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

6.4 Have you completed a Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment? No

6.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: Not Applicable

6.6 Summary of Health and Sustainability Impacts

		Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Environment and Health	Greenhouse gases emissions		x		
	Air Quality		x		
	Biodiversity		x		
	Impacts of Climate Change		x		
	Reduced or zero requirement for energy, building space, materials or travel		x		
	Active Travel		x		
Economy and Culture	Inclusive and sustainable development		x		
	Jobs and levels of pay		x		
	Healthier high streets		x		
	Culture, creativity and heritage		x		
Housing and Communities	Standard of housing		x		
	Access to housing		x		
	Crime		x		
	Social connectedness		x		

Equality and Diversity

6.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

6.8 If you have not completed an Impact Analysis, please explain your reasons: Not Applicable

6.9 Summary of Equality and Diversity impacts

Please indicate: P = Positive impact; 0 = Neutral; N = Negative; Enter "X"						
Age	P		0	X	N	
Disability	P		0	X	N	
Gender reassignment (transgender)	P		0	X	N	
Marriage & civil partnership	P		0	X	N	
Pregnancy & maternity	P		0	X	N	
Race/ethnicity	P		0	X	N	

Religion or belief	P		0	X	N	
Sex/gender	P		0	X	N	
Sexual orientation	P		0	X	N	
Armed forces families	P		0	X	N	
Rurality	P		0	X	N	
Socio-economic disadvantage	P		0	X	N	

Risk Management	Consequence	Controls required
Registers not maintained or incomplete	Members could be in breach of the code/legislation	Regular monitoring of code and sufficient awareness and training
Members fail to make appropriate declarations	Risk of prosecution for failure to declare or participating in proceedings where they have a DPI	Ensure appropriate declarations are made and registers up to date and training provided

Contact Officers

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Background Documents Available

None

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Section 151 Officer	27/09/2021	27/09/2021
Monitoring Officer	27/09/2021	29/09/2021
CMT	N/A	N/A

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	27/09/2021
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	11/10/2021
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A