

**South Lakeland District Council**  
**Standards Committee**

**Monday, 10 October 2022**

**District Register of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Registrable Interests**

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**Portfolio:** Not Applicable

**Report from:** Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Report Author:** Julia Krier– Legal, Governance and Democracy Specialist (Deputy 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

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**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 October 2021 to the date of writing this report (26 September 2022).

**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 Register of 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 Interests forms.

3.3 The Monitoring Officer recently reminded all District Council members to ensure that their Registers of Interests are up to date in accordance with the legal requirement to notify any changes within 28 days of them occurring.

- 3.4 Since the last report to Standards Committee on this matter in October 2021, no District Councillors have resigned from their position.
- 3.5 The eight Parish/Town Council Members co-opted onto the Lake Administration Committee following Parish Elections in May 2022 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 this annual review of the registers.
- 3.7 Following a request from members of the Standards Committee, officers identified a way to streamline and modernise the process for Members to update their Register of Interest forms using the existing Mod.Gov system. However, owing to the increased workload of officers in supporting the Local Government Reorganisation process and staffing issues, it has been not possible to prioritise at this time progressing with modernising the Mod.Gov system.

#### **Confirmation of reading and understanding the new Councillor Code of Conduct**

- 3.8 The Standards Committee should note that currently responses from five (5) District Councillors are awaited to confirm that they have understood the new Code of Conduct. A training session for members was last held in September 2021 online; twenty-one (21) members attended and thirty (30) members did not attend. A recording of the session is available for all members to view online.

#### **4.0 Consultation**

- 4.1 All members have been reminded to ensure that their Register of Interests is 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 disclosure 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
<b>Environment and Health</b>	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		
<b>Economy and Culture</b>	Inclusive and sustainable development		x		
	Jobs and levels of pay		x		
	Healthier high streets		x		
	Culture, creativity and heritage		x		
<b>Housing and Communities</b>	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

<b>Please indicate: P = Positive impact; 0 = Neutral; N = Negative; Enter "X"</b>						
<b>Age</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Disability</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Gender reassignment (transgender)</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; maternity</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Sex/gender</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	

<b>Armed forces families</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Rurality</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	
<b>Socio-economic disadvantage</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>N</b>	

<b>Risk Management</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls required</b>
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

Julia Krier – Legal, Governance and Democracy Specialist (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

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### Background Documents Available

None

### Tracking Information

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date Signed off</b>
Section 151 Officer	28/09/2022	28/09/22
Deputy Monitoring Officer	Report Author	Report Author
CMT	N/A	N/A

<b>Circulated to</b>	<b>Date sent</b>
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	28/09/2022
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	-
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A