

Report to Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

7 March 2023

Subject:	Annual Review – Register of Members' Interests
Director:	Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
Contact Officer:	Deputy Democratic Services Manager - Trisha Newton Trisha_Newton@Sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

1.1 That the Board:

1.1.1 Considers the Register of Members' Interests and declaration of interests made by Members.


1.1.2 Notes the contents of this report and makes any relevant recommendations to the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer after consideration of the Register of Members' Interests.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 The statutory requirements relating to the Register of Members' Interests are set out in Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011. It requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a Register of Members' Interests which also includes the interests of co-opted members of the Council.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Maintenance of the Members' Register of Interests contributes to public confidence in local democracy and is an essential part of good corporate governance.
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Council's present arrangements comply with the statutory provisions.
- 4.2 The statutory requirements also provide that the Council must ensure that copies of the Register are available at an office of the authority for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours.
- 4.3 The Register is available for inspection at the Sandwell Council House upon a request being made to the Monitoring Officer.
- 4.4 The Members' Register of Interests is available for the public to view on the Council's website.
- 4.5 The Council's arrangements enable the public to view details of each individual Member's interests [including co-opted members] on the Council's website via [Modern.gov](https://modern.gov).
- 4.6 One to one meetings with the Monitoring Officer and senior legal staff are offered to members.
- 4.7 The Registers are periodically reviewed by the Monitoring Officer.
- 4.8 The work programme provides for an annual review of the Register.
- 4.9 As part of the rollout of the Modern.gov committee management system, a self-serve option is being investigated in relation to register of interests whereby members would be able to directly access and update their registers. A further report will be submitted to a future meeting setting out the proposed options.



5 Implications

Resources:	There are no strategic resource implications arising from this report.
Legal and Governance:	<p>The Authority has a statutory duty under the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members. The Authority is also obliged to have in place a Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The new standards arrangements are set out in chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011, and in secondary legislation made under the Act, particularly in The Relevant Authorities (Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>The Localism Act 2011 strengthens requirements on members to register and disclose interests.</p>
Risk:	There are no risks associated with the report.
Equality:	There are no equality implications in the report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.
Social Value	There are no social value implications arising directly from this report.

6 Appendices

None

