

## Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

### REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

(Pursuant to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Part 1, Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011).

**Please refer to the Code of Conduct and the accompanying Notes of Guidance before completing this form.**

I, **Robert Piper**

an **Elected/Co-opted/Appointed** (*delete as appropriate*) member of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council give notice that I have set out below my interests and in so far as I am aware of the existence of the interests of my spouse or civil partner or any person with whom I am living as husband and wife or as if we were civil partners (relevant persons).

I have also set out in so far as I am aware of the existence of the names of any members of my family or close associates who either work for the Council or have a contractual relationship with the Council and the nature of that interest.

I have put 'None' where I/we have no such interest under any heading.

#### PART A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1. Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain (Including employment outside of the Borough of Sandwell). Please give details of (i) every employment, job, trade, business or vocation you and/or your partner have, for which you and/or your partner receive any benefit or gain (i.e. profit, salary or benefit in kind) including a short description of the activity e.g. accountant or plumber and (ii) the name of any employer or body, firm or company which you and/or your partner own or in whose securities you and/or your partner have any beneficial interest. This must include remuneration as a director.

SMBC Councillor (self).

- 
2. **Sponsorships** - any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

None.

3. **Contracts** - any contract which is made between you and/or your partner (or a body in which you and/or your partner have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.

None.

4. **Land** - any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Borough of Sandwell. Please give the address or other description (sufficient to identify the location) of any land or property in the area of the Borough of Sandwell in which you and/or your partner have a beneficial interest, indicating whether you and/or your partner are the owner or lessee or a tenant. Include any house you rent from Sandwell Borough Council.

115 Barclay Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 5JZ –owner (self and spouse)

- 
5. **Licences** - any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the Borough of Sandwell for a month or longer. Please give the address or other description (sufficient to identify the location) of any land or property in the area of the Borough of Sandwell in which you and/or your partner licence.

None.

6. **Corporate tenancies** - any tenancy where (to your knowledge) (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you and/or your partner have a beneficial interest. Please give the address or other description (sufficient to identify the location) of any land leased or licensed from the Council by you and/ or your partner or any body, firm or company by which you are employed or which you own or in which you have a beneficial interest

None.

7. **Securities** - any beneficial interest in securities of a body where (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Borough of Sandwell ; and (b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class. Note it is not necessary to declare the nature or size of the holding, simply the name of the company or other body.

None.

---

PART B  
OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS

8. Any body of which you and/ or your partner are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you and/ or your partner are appointed or nominated by the Council.

LGA General Assembly (self)  
Local Government General Information Unit General Assembly (self)  
West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board (self)  
West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee – Observer (self)  
Town Lead Local Board – Smethwick (self)  
W2R Contract Management Board (self)  
West Midlands Combined Authority Board (self)  
West Midlands Combined Authority Investment Board (self)  
  
Association of Black Country Authorities  
Corporate Parenting Board  
West Midlands Combines Authority Economic Development Board  
West Midlands Employers  
Climate Change Working Group

9. Any body of which you and/ or your partner are a member or in a position of general control or management and which
- (a) exercises functions of a public nature;
  - (b) is directed to charitable purposes; or
  - (c) is a body which includes as one of its principal purposes influencing public opinion or policy (this includes any political parties or trade union).

Labour Party and the Association of Labour Councillors - Member (self).  
Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell (BUDS) Registered Charity (number 1133484), and company limited by guarantee (number 06814962)–  
Trustee/Director (self).  
Labour Party – Member (self and spouse).  
Unite – Member (self).

10. Any person from whom you and/or your partner have received a gift, or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 (you must register any gifts and hospitality worth over £50 that you receive personally in connection with official duties).

None.

PART C  
MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY AND CLOSE ASSOCIATES

11. The names of any members of your family or close associates who either work for the Council or have a contractual relationship with the Council and the nature of that interest.

None.

### **Voluntary Registration of Other Interests**

Please list below any other interests that you wish to declare in accordance with the General Principles of Conduct as set out in the Code of Conduct or which you think may lead to a conflict of interests between your personal interests and the public interest.

Friends of Thimblemill Library – Member (self).  
Friends of Thimblemill Library – Member & Treasurer (spouse).  
Warley Woods Community Trust – Member (self and spouse).

## Confirmation

I understand that:-

- (a) I may be committing a criminal offence if I:-
- (i) fail to register or declare disclosable pecuniary interests as required, without reasonable excuse;
  - (ii) participate or vote or take steps in Council business at meetings or when acting alone when prevented from doing so;
  - (iii) knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading;

I understand that I must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new or change in the above interests, provide written notification to the Monitoring Officer.

- (b) I will be in breach of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's Code of Conduct for Members if I:-
- (i) fail to meet the requirements in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests;
  - (ii) fail to register or declare other interests as required;
  - (iii) take part in Council business at meetings or when acting alone when prevented from doing so;
  - (iv) provide information that is materially false or misleading;

I understand that I must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new or change in the above interests provide written notification to the Monitoring Officer.

Signed: REMOVED FOR DATA PROTECTION PURPOSES

Dated: 26/09/2023

Please sign and return this Notice to the Democratic Services Unit, Sandwell Council House, P.O. Box 2374, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE.

Date received by the Monitoring Officer: 18/09/2023

## **Notes of Guidance to Register of Interests**

You should complete the register with sufficient detail to identify clearly what the interest is. Do not use abbreviations, initials or acronyms. You are personally responsible for the accuracy of the contents of the register.

Information on your register of interests will be published. Should you have any concerns regarding the information on your register of interests been publicly available please discuss these with the Monitoring Officer who will consider whether the information should be redacted and moved to the sensitive register.

### **PART A** **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Disclosable Pecuniary interests are prescribed by Regulation. Please refer to Part A of the Code of Conduct when completing questions 1 - 7.

### **PART B** **OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS**

8. List all the bodies that are not committees or sub committees of the Council to which you have been appointed by the Council. Give the full name of the body (not acronyms or initials). If in doubt, ask the Monitoring Officer or the Service Manager - Governance for the list of Outside Bodies. Appointments or nominations may include local committees and charities, partnerships and companies in which the Council is involved, and other related organisations. Include nominations to regional and national bodies such as local authority associations.
9. Include any public bodies of which you are a member (e.g. school governor, health authority, government agency, other non-profit organisation in the public sector, local committee). Include any charity of which you are a trustee or member and any non-profit making body such as a cultural, sporting, environmental or social association, club or organisation. Include the name of any political party of which you are a member, any national or local body operating as a pressure group and any trade union or trade association.
10. This requirement is not intended to cover gifts and hospitality received by you in your private capacity (i.e. when you are not acting as a Councillor). The requirement covers gifts and hospitality received by you as a Councillor. With some hospitality, for example, weddings and special events, you will need to consider in what capacity you are involved. You are advised to register all gifts that you accept, and all hospitality (other than incidental refreshment of a modest nature). You must register the nature and approximate value of the gift and hospitality, and the person or body giving it. You should register it as soon as possible after receiving it.



Make sure that you indicate the date when you register as this is important to determine how long you will need to disclose the receipt of the gift or hospitality in the event of any business of the authority relating to it (three years from the date of registration). Please see Guidance on Gifts and Hospitality.

## PART C MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY AND CLOSE ASSOCIATES

11. List the names of any members of your family or close associates who either work for the Council or have a contractual relationship with the Council. Named individuals will need to provide written approval for their personal data to be used or the member will need to sign a statement that they have obtained permission. Any such names will be redacted from the public register.

### PLEASE NOTE

In the context of BOTH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Registerable Interests you are required to set out your own interests AND in so far as you are aware of their existence the interests of your spouse or civil partner or any person with whom you are living as husband and wife or as if you were civil partners.

In circumstances where the interest is not your own, you are not required to identify the interest as being your spouse or civil partner or any person with whom you are living as husband and wife or as if you were civil partners. However, you may wish to do so should you wish to provide further clarity where appropriate.

In this Code a 'member of your family' includes the following relationships of the member, the member's spouse or the member's civil partner or any person with whom you are living as husband and wife or as if you were civil partners: a son/daughter (including a biological son/daughter, stepson/daughter, adopted son/daughter or male/female child for which the person has custodial responsibilities), mother, father, brother or sister, a niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, grandchild, grandparent.

In this Code 'a person with whom you have a close association' means someone that you are in either regular contact with over a period of time or a significant contact who is more than an acquaintance or can be considered to be a friend, a colleague, a business associate or someone whom you know through general social contacts.

Guidance revised March 2021