

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 23 June 2022

SUBJECT: Review of the 2021 Member Code of Conduct in Regard to the Treatment of Registration and Disclosure of Interests

REPORT AUTHOR: Solomon Agutu – Interim Head of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer
DATE: June 2022
EXTN: 37610
AREA: Corporate Support – Law & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Council adopted a new Members Code of Conduct in March 2021. This report asks Committee to consider the Flowchart relating to disclosure of Interests.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to adopt the flowchart and request that the flowchart is circulated to all Members.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Members Code of Conduct was adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 17 March 2021.
- 1.2 It is now believed that the Members' 2021 Code of Conduct provides clear expectations on Members as to their conduct and should help to manage public expectations.
- 1.3 Best practice from the Committee on Standards in Public Life also recommends an annual review of the Code (Best Practice 3) "...to seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities."
- 1.4 At their meeting on 16 December 2021, Committee agreed that the Code in place was effective and appropriate and did not require a full review. However, they did wish for a more clear definition of registrable interests. Committee requested that the narrative included in Bognor Regis Town Council's Code of Conduct be replicated

within Arun's Code (Minute 536 refers). The Monitoring Officer (MO) has reviewed the proposals and the MO does not believe that these explanations should be part of the adopted Code but if needed should be given as a separate standalone briefing paper.

1.5 At their meeting in March 2022 Committee asked for an opportunity to discuss the issue in more detail.

2. PROPOSALS

Standards Committee is asked not to make any recommendations for change at this time.

3. OPTIONS:

- 1) To adopt the flowchart as an amendment to the Members Code of Conduct and refer to Constitution Working Party for discussion.
- 2) To adopt the flowchart and request that the flowchart is circulated to all Members.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		✓
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6. IMPLICATIONS:

Clarification of the definitions of registrable interests will help Members and Officers to understand when, how, and why an interest should be declared, and recorded in meeting minutes.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

A Member Code of Conduct is required by Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011. Local Government Act 1999 requires the council to continuously improve in efficiency, economy and effectiveness.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS: