

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider whether the Members' Register of Interests should be published on the North Lincolnshire Council website.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 provides "The monitoring officer of each relevant authority must establish and maintain a register of interests of the members and co-opted members of the authority." Paragraph 13 of the Members' Code of Conduct requires a member to register the categories of personal interests set out in paragraph 8 of the Code by providing written notification to the monitoring officer.
- 2.2 It should be noted that the register is maintained by the monitoring officer not the council but Section 81(6) provides that the council must ensure that copies of the register are available at an office of the council for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours.
- 2.3 Publications of the register on the website goes beyond the requirement of Section 81(6).
- 2.4 The initial view of the Standards Board was that this could only be done with the explicit consent of the members involved. However later advice after further consideration by the Information Commissioner is to the effect that councils can publish information already in the public domain as they see fit.
- 2.5 Under the Governance element of the Use of Resources Assessment the Audit Committee makes reference to members' registers and indicates that in its view it is good practice for such registers to be publicly available through councils' websites.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To publish the register on the website or not.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Publication of the register on the website would be in accordance with the latest thinking of both the Information Commissioner and the Audit Commission.
- 4.2 Non publication in this way would mean that the register would still remain available for public inspection in the council offices.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 There would be staff resource implications in the initial publishing of the register and its subsequent maintenance which would have to be met from existing resources.

#### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 Although not a statutory requirement publication on the website is regarded as good practice.

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 There has been no consultation to date on the proposal.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 The views of the Standards Committee are sought.

SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC

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**Background Papers - Nil**