

Agenda Item

Birmingham City Council Standards Committee

5 October 2023



Subject: Statutory Register of Declarations of Interests

Report of: Janie Berry, City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

Report Writer: Robert Connelly, Assistant Director Legal and Governance

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To provide an update on the completion by members of the new declaration of interests' form. The declaration of interests' form was updated following the resolution of Full Council and in conjunction with the Standards Committee and issued to members for completion in June 2023.
- 1.2 To provide the Standards Committee with an overview of the members Declaration of Interests.

Appendix 1: Overview of Declarations of Interests as at 26 September 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the declarations made and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

3. Declaration of Interests Form

- 3.1 The new form provides a description, guidance, and examples on how to complete each section.
- 3.2 The form now requires a fuller description of the interests being declared and as such has raised a few queries, where members had completed the interest, but not given the full description.
- 3.3 In some instances, members with an existing up to date register of interest form, had not automatically completed the new style form as a matter of course.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority.
- 5.2 Members are required to notify the monitoring officer within 28 days of any changes to their declaration of interests. In addition to this, it is good governance for members to review and update their register on a yearly basis.
- 5.3 Failure of a member to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in the code of conduct is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.
- 5.4 All members are required to notify any amendments to the declaration of interests within 28 days of any amendments, but it is good practice that all members review their declarations of interest at least annually to facilitate good and clear transparent decision making.

6. Human Resources

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7. Equalities / EIA

- 7.1 There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance at this stage.

8. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

- 8.1 None