

<b>Committee :</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>27 January 2020</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Register of Members' Interests</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Senior Solicitor (Corporate)</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>For Information</b>

## **Background**

1. One of the matters included in the Committee's Work Programme is to receive a report on the elected members' Register of Interests.

### **Gwynedd Council's Register of Members' Interests**

2. The Members' Code of Conduct states that Councillors must disclose orally to any meeting in which they are present, the existence and nature of any personal interest they have in the business being considered at that meeting. Furthermore, it states that a written notice must be provided to the Monitoring Officer including the details of the interest, the details of the business and a signature.

3. In addition, the Code of Conduct also states that, within 28 days of being elected, members must register their personal interests by providing a written notice to the Monitoring Officer. They must also provide a notice of any changes to those interests and also any new interests, within 28 days of becoming aware of them.

4. To assist members to adhere to the requirements of the Code of Conduct, the Council has provided two forms; one which is suitable for 'upfront' registration, and the other for registering declarations made at meetings. The declarations made on both forms constitute the register of interests. Copies of these forms are attached as an Appendix.

5. The Monitoring Officer is under a statutory duty to establish and maintain a register of interests. This is a public document and it must be available at an office of the authority for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours. It must also be published on the authority's website. On Gwynedd Council's website, each member's declarations are available on their personal pages. Declarations made in meetings will also be found in the published minutes of that meeting.

### **Community Councils**

6. The above statutory provisions are also applicable to town and community councils but with the following differences:

- There is no requirement to register personal interests 'upfront'.

- It's the Clerk to the council, rather than the Monitoring Officer, who is responsible for establishing and maintaining the register and for receiving notifications of personal interests.

7. We have provided community councils with Gwynedd's forms so that they can use them as templates if they wish. Whilst there is no requirement to register interests 'upfront', we advocate this as good practice.

### **Recommendation**

8. The Committee is asked to:

(a) Accept and note the report

(b) Put forward any observations on steps that could be taken in relation to the registration of interests