

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Update to Register of Interests Requirements

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Monitoring Officer

Purpose

This report is to raise awareness of changes to the requirements to provide home addresses on registers of interest.

Recommendation

THAT Committee:

- 1) Notes the report

1 Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”) provides that relevant authorities are required to establish and maintain a Register of Interests for their members and co-opted members. For parish councils this register is maintained by the district council.
- 1.2 The Act also requires that the Register of Interests must include details of interests that are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as defined by regulation. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) include any beneficial interest in land that a member or co-opted member holds within the authority’s area. Members and co-opted members have therefore been required to disclose their home address, where they have a beneficial interest in the property within the District or Parish boundary on their Register of Interests.

- 1.3 As the Act requires that Register of Interests are published and available for public inspection, members and co-opted members home addresses, where disclosed as a DPI have been publicly available. The only exception to this is where a member or co-opted member has asked and the Monitoring Officer has agreed that their address be recorded as a sensitive interest. Sensitive interests as set out in s.32 of the Act can be excluded from the Register of Interests where the disclosure of that interest could lead to violence or intimidation of a member, co-opted member or their family.
- 1.4 On 29 June 2026, changes to the Act will come into effect which change the position in relation to the publication of members and co-opted members home addresses where these are a DPI. Section 32A is being inserted into the Act by virtue of section 65 of the English Devolution & Community Empowerment Act 2026. Under this provision, authorities are no longer required to publish home addresses of members and co-opted members in public registers of interests unless a member or co-opted member opts-in to the publication of their home address.
- 1.5 The changes to legislation have been implemented following growing concerns about the safety of members and the potential risks associated with publicly available information about home addresses. The non-publication of home addresses protects the privacy of members and co-opted members.
- 1.6 As a result of the changes to legislation, the Council has contacted all Councillors to advise them of the changes and specifically requested that any member or co-opted member wishing to publish their home address to provide their explicit consent. Members will still be required to disclose home addresses to the Council, and the Council will still be required to maintain a list of home addresses where they are DPIs, but the addresses will not be published without consent. The Council will also be updating register of interest forms to reflect the opt-in requirements in respect of home addresses. The same approach is being taken with parish councils with advice being issued to clerks.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Members note the content of this report including the changes to process for DPIs in respect of land. The same approach will be taken with members and co-opted members of parish councils who will be advised to “opt-in” if they require their address to be published.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 This change is mandated by the Localism Act from 29 June 2026 so there are no alternative options to consider.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 It is a legal requirement as detailed within the report that changes to Register of Interests are made. Any publication of home addresses will now require explicit consent from a member or co-opted member and the aim is to safeguard any potential risks associated with the publication of members home addresses and protect members and co-opted members privacy.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 None

9 Background Papers

9.1 None.

10 Local Government Reorganisation

10.1 All authorities will be required to make the changes outlined within the report.

Statutory Officer approval

**Approved by the Chief Financial Officer
Date:**

Drafted by the Monitoring Officer