

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

On 30 September 2002

Report title: MAINTAINING THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**Report of: MONITORING OFFICER****1. Purpose**

To make provision for the maintenance of the register of members' interests as required by the Local Government Act 2000

2. Recommendations

It is proposed that the following procedure for maintaining the register of members interests be formalised:

- The register will be updated at least once every calendar month by the office of the monitoring officer taking account of any amendments received during the relevant period.
- Following this an electronic copy of the amended register will be sent to the Civic Centre to replace the existing copy.
- At least every six months, the monitoring officer will send members a copy of their existing declaration of interests asking them to confirm its accuracy or to provide any necessary amendments.

Report authorised by: Deputy Monitoring Officer**Contact officer: John Suddaby****Telephone: 0208 489 3974****3. Executive summary**

- 3.1** The Haringey Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in April 2002 requires members to make declarations of their personal interests as defined in the Code. Accordingly a new register of members' interests has been compiled.
- 3.2** The existence of the register and its availability for inspection by members of the public has been announced in the local press and in Haringey People as is required by the 2000 Act. Both Members and the monitoring officer have continuing obligations in relation to the register:

- members must signify to the monitoring officer in writing any changes to their declarations of interest within 28 days of becoming aware of them;
- the monitoring officer has a duty to maintain the register;
- the opening up of the register to public scrutiny demands that it is as accurate a record of members' interest as possible at any one time.

The proposals seek to address these issues.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development

Local Government Act 2000, Haringey Code of Conduct

4. Access to information:

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5. Report

Under the Local Government Act 2000, the monitoring officer must establish and maintain a register of interests of members and voting co-opted members of the Council.

The register has now been set up and this has been publicised in the local press with details of public access to it. This report concerns itself with proposals for the maintenance of the register.

The register consists of hard copy, declarations of interests signed by individual members together with subsequent amendments made by them. This register is kept by the monitoring officer. An electronic copy of the register is kept by the monitoring officer and at the Civic Centre and is available for public inspection there. This electronic copy is regularly updated taking into account any amendments received by the monitoring officer.

It is proposed that the following procedure for maintaining the register be formalised:

1. The register will be updated with any amendments received during the relevant period at least once every calendar month
2. Following this an electronic copy of the amended register will be sent to the Civic Centre to replace the existing copy.
3. At least every six months, the monitoring officer will send members a copy of their existing declaration of interests asking them to confirm its accuracy or to provide any necessary amendments.

Nothing in the above will detract from a member's obligation to inform the monitoring officer in writing of any changes to his/her interests within 28 days of becoming aware of them (paragraph 16 of the Code of Conduct).