

Barrow Borough Council
Audit and Governance Committee
30 September 2021

Borough and Parish/Town Councillor Registers of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Registrable Interests

Report from: Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Debbie Storr

Wards: Not applicable

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

1.1 That the Audit and Governance Committee reviews the register of disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable interests for Borough and Parish/Town Council Members and Co-optees to September 2021.

2.0 Recommendation

Audit and Governance Committee is asked to note the review of the registers of interest.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 members are required to disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests as specified in regulations and any other interests which the Council has decided should be registered in the interests form.

3.2 The Borough Council resolved on 17 July 2012 to adopt the other registrable interests as detailed in the register of interests form, and the Monitoring Officer is required to maintain the register and ensure that it is available for inspection, as required by the Act, which also includes being available on the Council's website. When looking at Councillor's details on the website there are links to the register of interests form, and to those of the Parish/Town Councillors.

3.3 The Council holds elections every 4 years (last ordinary elections held May 2019) and there were two new members following by elections for two vacancies which were held on 6 May 2021. Interest forms from the new members have been received and all members (including Parish and Town Councillors) have been requested to confirm that their registers of interests and gifts and hospitality are up to date.

3.4 Guidance has been provided around the code and declarations and training on the code was provided to members in February 2021.

3.5 In September 2020 due to the uncertainty of whether members who received allowances have a DPI in matters coming before the Council the Monitoring Officer granted dispensation to all members of Barrow Borough Council for a period of 4 years for matters relating to Local Government Reform and Devolution.

3.7 Co-optees on the Housing Forum have also completed their interests forms, and the Monitoring Officer is maintaining a register of interests for those members sitting on the Brilliant Barrow Board.

3.8 Members are requested to note the annual review of the registers.

4.0 Consultation

All Members were asked by email on 14th June to ensure that their registers of interest were complete and up to date.

An email was sent to all Parish/Town Councillors on 21st June asking them to confirm that their registers of interest were up to date.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options, the report is to note.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

6.1 Good governance links to the achievement of Council priorities and objectives

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 Not applicable

Legal

7.1.2 Members are required to ensure that they comply with the code of conduct and declare their disclosable pecuniary interests as appropriate. Failure to comply with the legislation with regard to disclosure and participation at meeting on disclosable pecuniary interests (without any appropriate dispensation) is a criminal offence.

Equality and Diversity

7.2 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No – not applicable

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Registers not maintained or incomplete	Members could be in breach of the code/legislation	Regular monitoring of code and sufficient training and awareness
Members fail to make appropriate declarations	Risk of prosecution for failure to declare or participating in proceedings where they have a DPI	Ensure appropriate declarations are made and registers up to date and training provided

Contact Officers

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Background Documents Available

Registers of Interests for Borough and Parish Councillors – www.barrowbc.gov.uk