

**Report of the Head of Internal
Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance**

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 27TH JULY 2022

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This brief report confirms to the Audit and Governance Committee of the Council's compliance with the requirements for Councillors to submit annual declarations of interest.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee obtain assurances regarding the Council's compliance with this important element of public accountability.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 all Councillors are required to provide the Council's Monitoring Officer with their declarations of interest, at least annually including where a Councillor does not have any.
- 3.2 Furthermore, there is also a legal requirement for any newly elected Councillors to provide the Monitoring Officer with their declarations of interests within 28 days of being elected.
- 3.3 In all cases, Councillor declarations of interest are required to be published on the Council's website.
- 3.4 With public expectations rightly high regarding the conduct of Councillors, it was felt important to highlight the Council's compliance with this important aspect of public transparency.
- 3.5 Following a helpful question from a member of the public, the format of the declaration form that is published on the Council's website has been reviewed. Moving forward declarations will be entered into and published via the Governance Unit's committee management software. This will allow the date submitted to the Monitoring Officer, as well as date published to be recorded. It will also improve the efficiency of the process in that the information can be more easily retrieved and updated when required.
- 3.6 All declarations are available following this link:
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

3.7 A full review of the Council's constitution is planned. The Constitution covers all aspects of decision-making, terms of reference and delegations, procedural matters and public participation and access to information. Internal Audit will be providing independent input into this review.

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