

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 APRIL 2026

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

A.1 ANNUAL REPORT ON DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present the Committee with an overview on the register of, and declarations of, interests made by Members from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It was agreed at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 29 June 2016 that as part of its annual work programme, the Committee would receive an annual report on declarations of interest and associated matters. The Standards Committee included this item in its work programme for 2025/26 at its meeting held on 9 April 2025 (minute no. 44 refers).

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee requests that Members be formally reminded to keep their Register of Interests' entries up to date and to respond to Officer requests to confirm that their Members' Register of Interest entries are up to date.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

To provide a timely update to the Committee as part of its agreed work programme.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There are no alternative options associated with this report.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Declarations of Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, forms part of effective and positive governance, being a theme of Financial Sustainability and Openness within the Corporate Plan for 2024-28, adopted by full Council at its meeting in November 2023 (minute no.76).

Members' Declarations of Interests fall within Principle A of the Council's Annual Governance Statement, namely behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct sets out the requirements for Councillors regarding the registration and disclosure of interests. The relevant legislation is the Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

The District Council adopted the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct with effect from May 2023, with interests defined as Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests and Non-Registerable Interests.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the **CIPFA / SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016 Edition)**. A copy of the Council's Code is available to be viewed or downloaded from the website (www.tendringdc.gov.uk) or can be obtained by contacting the Corporate Director – Law and Governance.

The Annual Governance Statement explains how the Council has complied with the Code and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, Regulation 6(1), which requires an authority to conduct a review, at least once a year, of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control and include a statement reporting on the review with any published Statement of Accounts.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no finance or resource implications associated with this report.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	-
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	The agendas for the Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings include declarations of interest as a formal item of business.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	This is an annual report presented to the Standards Committee for openness and transparency in its decision making.

MILESTONES AND DELIVERY

This is an annual report presented to the Committee in accordance with the work programme.

ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION

Not presenting this information could have a detrimental impact on the Council's reputation.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

None undertaken.

EQUALITIES

Equality considerations are taken into account for each decision made.

SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS	
Social value considerations are taken into account for each decision made.	
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2050	
This is taken into account for each decision made.	
OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS	
Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.	
Crime and Disorder	Not applicable
Health Inequalities	Not applicable
Area or Ward affected	No Wards are directly affected by the contents of the report.
ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	
None	

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND
In accordance with the Committee's Work Programme, this is an annual report detailing Declarations of Interest and associated matters. This report covers the period from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and provides statistics on: • The number of Declarations of Interest made at meetings; • The number of offers of gifts and hospitality that have been registered by Members during this period; and • Updates to the Members' Register of Interests. The data has been collated from the Committee system Modern.gov which the Council started using as of August 2016 and from Members' submissions. <u>Register of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</u> The Council is required to publish the 'Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest' on its website in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, which prescribes the categories of interest. It is confirmed that the Council's website includes a Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Registerable Interests for all District Councillors and that this is updated when a Member provides details of an amendment directly to the Monitoring Officer. Any entry which is relevant to a business item on an agenda, must be declared by the individual Member and they must subsequently remove themselves from the meeting, unless a prior dispensation has been granted by the Monitoring Officer. A dispensation for all District Members was granted by the Monitoring Officer at full Council on 17 February 2026 for the purpose of the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & IT) as

follows:

*Tendring District Council adopted the LGA Model Members' Code of Conduct which does not include the provisions confirming Members do not have a declarable interest which relates to the function of setting the Council Tax under the **Local Government Act 1992**. Therefore, to enable you to debate and vote on the budget item to set the Council Tax, the email of 09 February 2026 provided all District Councillors with a dispensation under Section 33(2)(a) to (e) of the Localism Act 2011. Consequently, you will not be required to declare an interest based on the fact you live in the District and therefore have to pay Council Tax.*

*However, Members are importantly reminded of **Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**, which provides that any Member, who is in arrears by at least 2 months with their Council Tax payments cannot vote on matters concerning either the level of or administration of Council Tax. It is important to note that this also covers Council tax liabilities outside of the District and property which may not be your main residence. If present at the meeting, a Member to whom this provision applies must disclose the fact and may speak on the item but cannot vote. Non-compliance with this section is a criminal offence. Therefore, should this provision apply to any Member, this should be declared at the Declaration of Interest agenda item.*

Declarations of Interest at meetings

Members are required to declare Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Other Registerable Interests and Non-Registerable Interests at meetings and those recorded on the Committee system, as declared by District Councillors for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 are set out in **Appendix A** to this report. Minutes of meetings also record the declarations.

Use of blanket dispensations

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct does not include blanket dispensations. Consequently, the Monitoring Officer provided District Members with a blanket dispensation for the purpose of setting Council Tax under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, at the District Council's budget meeting on 17 February 2026 (minute no.108) (referred to earlier within this report). The Monitoring Officer also stated the following in relation to this item:

A recorded vote is mandatory on any decision relating to the budget or Council Tax. This includes not only on the substantive budget motions agreeing the budget and setting Council Taxes, but also on any amendments proposed at the meeting.

I can inform Members that no budget amendments were submitted to the Council's Section 151 Officer by the deadline set out in Council Procedure Rule 2.

For other types of Interest, which need to be considered, Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs), Other Registerable Interests (ORIs) or Non-Registerable Interests, are defined in the Code of Conduct and for DPIs and ORIs, these have been (or should have been) registered in advance, and with the exception of the Council Tax exemption for residing in the District, you should still consider if any other interest do apply. A blanket exemption/dispensation has not been applied for all."

Declarations of offers/receipt of gifts and hospitality

Following the Standards Committee review of the Council's Gift and Hospitality Policy for Members, guidance and a notification form was produced for all District Councillors in May 2016. Reference to declarations of offers/receipt of gifts and hospitality was included within the mandatory Members' Code of Conduct training delivered to the Monitoring officer in June and July 2023, and any subsequent Code of Conduct training.

There has not been any recorded declaration of offers/receipt of gifts and hospitality made by District Councillors in the time period covered by this report.

Members' Register of Interests

Pursuant to the Localism Act 2011, within 28 days of becoming a Member or re-election or re-appointment to Officer, Members must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct, namely Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) which are as described in the 'Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012'. Members should also register details of other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 2, namely Other Registerable Interest (ORIs).

At the conclusion of the May 2023 District, Town and Parish Council elections, all Members received the relevant Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Other Registerable Interests form as part of their induction procedure, to complete and return to the Monitoring Officer, for inclusion on the Council's website within a central register. Registration and the obligations to disclose DPIs, ORIs and Non-Registerable Interests and the effect on participation was covered within the mandatory Members' Code of Conduct training delivered by the Monitoring Officer in June and July 2023 and refresher training on 18 June 2025.

In line with the requirements of the Council's External Auditors, an annual reminder has been sent to all District Members to ensure that all interests are up to date and to confirm this is the position, this process remains ongoing. At the time of writing the report 23 out of 48 have been received, this figure will be updated at the meeting.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE ETC.

It was agreed at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 29 June 2016 that, as part of its annual work programme, the Committee would receive an annual report on declarations of interest and associated matters.

Full Council on 22 November 2022 (minute no. 51) - **RESOLVED** that Council approves:-

- (a) the adoption of the Local Government Association's Model Members' Code of Conduct, as set out in Appendix 2, for the purposes of Sections 27 & 28 of the Localism Act 2011, with a commencement date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2023.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

There are no background papers associated with this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Table of Members' Declarations of Interest made at Council, Cabinet or Committee meetings 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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