

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Guidance for Members on Declarations of Interest</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

To consider and approve guidance for members on declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011 and code of conduct.

## 2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Whilst there are no direct links to the Council's main policy objectives, the effective monitoring of complaints is matter of good governance and is important in preserving the confidence of local communities.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee considered the Council's code of conduct at their last meeting and were satisfied that it remained fit for purpose. However, the Committee asked for additional guidance to be produced in time for member training after the 2015 election in 2 specific issues: what constitutes a "close association" and when dual-hatted members need to declare personal and prejudicial interests.
- 3.2 Detailed guidance for members on declarations of interest under the previous national model code of conduct was issued by the Standards Board. The DCLG has issued guidance about the new provisions for disclosure of pecuniary and other interests under the under the Localism Act (attached at Appendix 1 for ease of reference) but this is couched in fairly general terms.

## 4. Proposal/Discussion

- 4.1 To assist members with all aspects of declarations of interest, both disclosable pecuniary interests under the Localism Act and other personal and prejudicial interests under the code of conduct, the monitoring officer has prepared a detailed guidance document attached at Appendix 2 for consideration by the Committee.
- 4.2 This includes advice on "close associates" at a paragraph 8 on page 5. Details of when membership of another public authority constitutes a personal are set out in paragraph 5 on page 5 and examples of when this becomes a prejudicial interest are included at paragraph 3 on page 6.

## 5. Resources, Risk and Other Implications

Financial - None  
Legal - As set out in the report  
Risks issues - None  
Equalities - None

## 6. Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider the draft guidance attached at Appendix 2 and to recommend to Council that it be adopted

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<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	N/A
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	Joanna Swift: 01895 837229 Email: joanna.swift@southbucks.gov.uk
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None except those referred to in the report