

## **GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY ON PERSONAL INTERESTS**

**Submitted by:** Head of Central Services and Monitoring Officer

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report**

To promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to comply with the Localism Act 2011.

### **Recommendation**

**That the flowchart be adopted and utilised by the Council.**

#### 1. **Background**

- 1.1 At the previous meeting of this Committee on 1 October 2012, the Monitoring Officer submitted a report outlining the contents of guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government entitled 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests'. The Monitoring Officer also circulated a flowchart that, it was considered, would help members of the Council to decide whether they needed to disclose interests in a particular matter.
- 1.2 It was resolved at that meeting to include consideration of the flowchart on the agenda for your next meeting of the (i.e. 7 January 2013). A copy of the flowchart is attached as an appendix.

#### 2. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

The new regime will contribute to the overall ethical wellbeing of the Council, and help to ensure a culture of high ethical standards, which the public and the Council's partners can have confidence in. This will thereby contribute to the Council's priority of transforming our Council to achieve excellence.

#### 3. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by their Members.

#### 4. **Equality Impact Assessment**

No differential equality impact issues have been identified.

#### 5. **Major Risks**

There are no specific risk issues.

#### 6. **Financial Implications**

There are none flowing from this report.