

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	26 March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>WITHHOLDING DETAILS OF COUNCILLORS’ SENSITIVE INTERESTS AND HOME ADDRESSES</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	In response to recent concerns from elected members about intimidation in public life, The Minister wishes to ensure that all councillors and elected mayors are aware of the sensitive provisions in Section 32 of the Localism Act 2011. The sensitive interests’ provisions provide for details about a registered interest to be excluded from versions of the Register of Interests available for public inspection (or published online) where a member and monitoring officer agree that the disclosure of that interest could lead to violence or intimidation of them or their family. They provide for members to disclose that they have an interest but for the details to be withheld from the public register.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	To note and agree further communicated to members.
<b>Financial Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer &amp; Chief Finance Officer)</b>	There are no significant financial issues arising from this Report.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised By Borough Solicitor)</b>	The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by councillors is an important part of maintaining public confidence in both the council and its members. Failure to do so could have significant reputational implications.  <b>32 Sensitive interests</b> <i>(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where —</i> <i>(a) a member or co-opted member of a relevant authority has an interest (whether or not a disclosable pecuniary interest), and</i> <i>(b) the nature of the interest is such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority’s monitoring officer, consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.</i> <i>(2) If the interest is entered in the authority’s register, copies of the register that are made available for inspection, and any published version of the register, must not include details of the interest (but may state that the member or co-opted member has an interest the details of which are withheld under this subsection).</i> <i>(3) If section 31(2) applies in relation to the interest, that provision is to be read as requiring the member or co-opted member to disclose not the interest but merely the fact that the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter concerned.</i>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Standards Committee should be aware of the National position in order that consistency of approach is taken in respect of setting and advising on local ethical and standard issues.

**Links To Community Plan:**

Support the current arrangements for ethical and corporate governance of the Authority to ensure that the public can have confidence in local government.

**Access To Information**

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL**

**This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public**

**Background Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author, Sandra Stewart, Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service:



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