

# **BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**3 APRIL 2013**

### **REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

#### **PUBLICATION OF THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Council that the Register of Members' Interests will be published on the Council's Website.

##### **2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority**

- 2.1 There are no direct links to the Corporate Improvement Plan and Corporate Priorities.

##### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and the Code of Conduct for Members requires all elected Members and Co-opted Members to register their financial and other interests by notification to the Monitoring Officer, who, in turn, is required to establish and maintain a Register of Members' Interests. It is also a requirement for Members and Co-opted Members to update the Register within 28 days of becoming aware of any change.
- 3.2 Most Authorities, whilst maintaining a paper Register publish the Declaration Form in relation to registerable interests on their main website. Website publications are not a statutory requirement but are considered an open and transparent method of publishing Members' registered interests. The Welsh Government has provided grant funding to assist in this process.

##### **4. Current situation / proposal**

- 4.1 The Register of Members' Interests is currently kept in a paper format and is available for public inspection during office hours at Civic Offices.
- 4.2 In order to demonstrate this Council's commitment to openness, accountability and high ethical standards it is recommended that the information be published on the Council's website so that the information is more readily accessible, i.e 24 hours a day rather than during office hours. The on-line register will not replace the statutory paper version of the Register held by the Monitoring Officer which must continue to be maintained and made available for public inspection on request.

##### **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 Council is recommended to approve the publication of Members' interests on the Council's website.

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## **Background Documents**

None