



**AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
26 NOVEMBER 2012**

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**Report of: Borough Solicitor**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)**

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**SUBJECT: GUIDE FOR COUNCILLORS – OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY ON  
PERSONAL INTERESTS**

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Wards affected: Borough wide.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Standards Committee of the circulation of 'Openness and transparency on personal interests – A guide for councillors', attached as Appendix 1, issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to all Councillors, Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the guide 'Openness and transparency on personal interests', attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The (Managing Director (People and Places) circulated the guide for Councillors – 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests', produced by the DCLG, along with a letter from Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, sent to the Leader of the Council, to all Borough Councils, Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks, on 22 August 2012.

**4.0 THE GUIDE**

4.1 The guide on personal interests gives basic practical information to Councillors about how to be open and transparent about their personal interests. It is

designed to help councillors, including parish councillors, with the new standards arrangements introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

## **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

5.1 The provision of information to Borough Councillors, Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks assists in promoting high ethical Standards that will in turn contribute to achievement of the Community Strategy.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The costs of circulating information on standards is met from existing budgets.

## **7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

7.1 The Guide, attached at Appendix 1, should not be taken as providing any definitive interpretation of the statutory requirements. However, the information will assist in ensuring Members are aware of the requirements placed upon them.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – ‘Openness and transparency on personal interests – A guide for Councillors’ (produced by DCLG)