

NOTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INTERESTS FORM

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To review the Notification of Financial and Other Interests form.

Background

2. It is a requirement of the Parish Council Code of Conduct (paragraph 12) that all parish councillors register their financial and other interests within 28 days of their election by providing written notification to the Monitoring Officer. Paragraph 12(e) requires details of:

“the address or other description (sufficient to identify the location) of any land in which he has a beneficial interest and which is in the area of the authority.”

3. The matter was considered at the recent Standards Committee Hearing concerning the Whitchurch and Ganarew Group Parish Council. It was suggested that more guidance was needed to clarify this requirement and agreed that the Committee would review the format of the form. The current form used in Herefordshire is set out at Appendix A. This is based on the model form produced at the time the Code was first introduced.
4. Section 6 deals with details of councillors “beneficial interests in land”.
5. Following the Whitchurch and Ganarew hearing, the Monitoring Officer has reviewed the returns for that council. Currently 4 of the current council of 15 have given a “nil” return in relation to this question of the form. The Chairman of the Council has been advised of this and asked to check with the councillors concerned if their declaration requires updating.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee agree that additional guidance be included on the form to ensure councillors are clear as to what needs to be disclosed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Marie Rosenthal, County Secretary and Solicitor on (01432) 260200