

Standards Committee

26 January 2005

Publication of Register of Interests to the Web

***Joint Report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services
and Director of Finance***

1. Purpose of Report

To request the Committee to consider the publication of the Members Register of Interest to the Website.

2. Background of Report

- 2.1. Elected and Co-opted Members are required to register both financial and other interests within 28 days of their election or appointment to office. These interests must be registered with the Monitoring Officer and a register maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000.
- 2.2. Members are also required to register any gifts or hospitality worth over £25 received in connection with their official duties as a Member. These registers are public documents and are open to inspection.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1. A number of Local Authorities are now publishing Members interests on their Websites as well as making a hard copy available for inspection. Cumbria County Council have recently made a decision to publish the interests of Councillors to their Website and it is the intention of the other District Councils in Cumbria to do the same.
- 3.2. The Democracy part of Eden District Council's Website is currently being updated and redesigned to make it easier for the public to find out information regarding Councillors and Council meetings. It seems an ideal time to make this information available as the work can be carried out at the same time.
- 3.3. It is suggested that the Eden District Council Website is developed at this time to include information relating to the Members Register of Interests and register of gifts and hospitality which will be maintained and updated as appropriate by Democratic Services Officers.

4. Policy Framework

- 4.1 The proposal assists with meeting the Council's aim to "Best Serve the People of Eden" and in particular with the theme "A Quality Council".

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no direct legal implications. The register of interests is open to inspection. The availability of the register on the Web may mean that the information is more readily available. The register also includes the interests of any co-opted people.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The cost of the proposal can be met from within existing Council resources.

7. Reason for Recommendation

- 7.1 To make the register of interests more readily accessible to the public.

8. Recommendation

<p>It is recommended that Council be recommended to approve the development of the Website to include the publication of Members Register of Interests</p>
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Background Papers: Information from the Internet

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