

Standards Committee

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REPORT

REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS ON-LINE

1. Purpose of Report :

To discuss whether Salisbury District Council's Register of Members' Interests should be published on the Council's web site.

2. Background :

2.1 Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires the Monitoring Officer of each Local Authority to establish and maintain a Register of Interests of the members and co-opted members of their Authority. The Register must be available for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours.

2.2 There is no statutory requirement for the Register to be made available on-line.

2.3 The Register of Interests contains personal information within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1998. There has been some doubt over whether members' consent is needed for publication of the Register on-line and the Standards Board for England has previously suggested that this was the case. However, in their recently issued Bulletin 20 the Standards Board has stated that recent advice it has received from the Information Commissioner is that Councils can publish information already in the public domain on their web-sites. This therefore means that consent of Councillors would not be needed to publish the Register of Interests on-line.

3. Publication of the Register on-line.

It is considered that if the Register is to be published on-line this should be with consent of members and all entries should be published and not just those of the members who consent.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Standards Committee debate this matter and determine a way forward.

5. Background Papers:

The Standards Board for England Bulletin 20.

6. Implications:

- **Financial:** None
- **Legal:** Contained within the Report
- **Human Rights:** None
- **Personnel:** None
- **Community Safety:** None
- **Environmental implications:** None
- **Council's Core Values:**
- **Wards Affected:** All