

REPORT OF THE CLERK

REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

1 Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the Standards Committee of the response to the recent request for all Fire Authority Members to complete the Register of Members' Interests form.

2 Recommendations

That Members:

- a) Note the content of the report; and
- b) Decide what action they wish to take, if any, to ensure that the Register of Members' Interests for all Members is up-to-date.

3 Background

Under the Model Code of Conduct adopted by the Fire Authority, all Members are required to register their financial and other interests with the Fire Authority. Members are also required to provide written notification of any changes to those interests within 28 days of becoming aware of the changes.

4 Register of Member's Interests Forms

On 14 June, a letter was sent to all Members of the Fire Authority and Independent Members of its Standards Committee asking that they complete and return a Register of Members' Interests form. As it had been over a year since a number of Members had completed a Register of Interests, it was deemed appropriate to ask all Members to complete a fresh entry. Those Members, who had not returned the form by 7 July were sent a reminder and advised that a report on the Register of Interests was to be considered by this meeting of the Standards Committee. To date fourteen responses have been received out of a possible nineteen.

Members are not required to complete a fresh Register of Interests annually and the onus is upon them to provide written notification of any changes (as outlined in Section 3 above). Officers do, however, prompt all Members annually in an attempt to ensure that the Register of Interests is kept up-to-date. The Standards Committee



is asked to consider, therefore, if they require officers to take any further action in this regard.

5 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 Legal Comment

Under the Local Government Act 2000 Members are required to register their financial and other specified interests in the Fire Authority's register maintained under section 81(1) of that Act. The financial and other interests, which must be registered, are set out at paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Model Code of Conduct adopted by the Fire Authority. There is also a requirement to provide notification of any changes to those interests within 28 days of becoming aware of them. Failure to comply with the rules relating to the registration of interests will amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Whilst it is good practice for Members to complete a fresh Register of Interests form annually, there is no obligation for Members to do so, if their circumstances have not changed since they last completed or updated their existing form.

7 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

8 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority
Model Code of Conduct
Register of Members' Interests Form

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balanced Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	*
Capacity		Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment		Operational Assurance	
Equality and Diversity		Retained	
Efficiency Savings		Risk and Insurance	
Environmental		Staff	
Financial		Strategic Planning	
Fire Control/Fire Link		West Midlands Regional Management Board	

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