

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Standards Committee	
MEETING	12 July 2022	
TITLE:	Auditor’s Report 2020-2021	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix (1) BANES Annual Auditor’s Report 2020-2021		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 To consider comment relating to the Members' Register of Interests contained in the BANES Annual Auditor's Report 2020-2021 (Appendix 1)

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee is asked to;**

- 2.1 Discuss the Auditor's Report and in particular the comment (at page 17) suggesting the Members' Registers of Interests be updated as a matter of routine on a periodic basis.
- 2.2 To ask the Monitoring Officer to develop a protocol for updating the Members' Register of Interests on an annual basis.

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Auditor's Report considered that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to monitor standards. The report also noted that there is some variation in the timing of updates to the Members' Register of Interests and suggested it would be good practice for updates to become a matter of routine on a periodic basis.
- 3.2 The Monitoring Officer confirms the current position is that annual reminders are sent to Members asking them to update their Register of Interests immediately before budget setting in February each year. The Monitoring Officer proposes that there may be scope to develop a process whereby the annual reminder

could include a requirement for each member to confirm either 'no change' or require changes to be recorded and dated accordingly.

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 The Localism Act 2011 provides the following:

- (1) The monitoring officer must establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority (section 29).
- (2) Members must notify the monitoring officer of any changes to the register within 28 days of that change (section 30).

#### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

5.1 No direct implications

#### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 Adherence to robust standards of conduct mitigates potential complaints about standards issues.

#### **7. EQUALITIES**

6.1 No direct impact

#### **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 No direct impact

#### **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 None

#### **10. CONSULTATION**

10.1 The S.151 and Monitoring Officer have been consulted

<b>Contact person</b>	Shaine Lewis Legal Services Manager shaine_lewis@bathnes.gov.uk
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	