Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

31 October 2022

Update on Register of Interests in City and Parish tier Councils

Report by:
Monitoring Officer

Officer Contact:
Lorraine Browne, Legal & Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer,
lorraine.browne@chelmsford.gov.uk, 01245 606560

Purpose

To update members on the register of interest forms in City and Parish tier authorities.

Recommendations

1. To note update.

1. Background

1.1. It is apparent from complaints received as well as existing monitoring arrangements (which include periodic checks and reminders via clerks) that there have been ongoing issues about the completion and updating of the register of interest forms in some authorities at parish tier. To help improve oversight and increase compliance an annual assurance report is being

introduced this year. This is with a view to laying the foundations for further development and improvements after City and Parish elections in May 2023.

1.2. It should also be noted that a number of authorities have either recently adopted or are currently considering whether to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct. The adoption of the model code presents a need and opportunity for further training and as the interest provisions are likely to change further reviewing and updating of the register of interest form to meet the requirements of the model code of conduct may be necessary in any event.

1.3. Set out below is the position as at the time of writing the report in relation to the completion of register of interest forms. These have been RAG (red/amber/green) rated.

2. Table detailing returned forms

Council	Amount of Cllrs (excl Vacancies)	Amount of submitted ROI Forms
Chelmsford City	57	57
Boreham	9	7 currently serving councillors (1 recently co-opted councillor pending)
Broomfield	13	13 (complete)
Chignal	7	5 of 6 currently serving councillors have completed forms. 1 outstanding
Danbury	15	11 (4 vacancies)
East Hanningfield	7	7 (complete)
Galleywood	9	9 (complete)
Good Easter	7	6 (1 vacancy)
Great & Little Leighs	9	8 of 9 currently serving councillors have provided forms. 1 form outstanding in relation to a councillor who is unable to complete this due to ill health. 1 outstanding
Great Baddow	13	13 (complete)
Great Waltham	11	11 (complete)
Highwood	7	6 (1 outstanding form on its way to CCC)
Little Baddow	9	8 (1 vacancy)
Little Waltham	9	9 (completed)

Margaretting	9	5 of 6 currently serving councillors have completed forms. 1 outstanding
Pleshey	7	7 (complete)
Rettendon	9	9 (complete)
Roxwell	9	5 of 6 currently serving councillors have completed forms. I form outstanding
Runwell	13	12 (1 vacancy)
Sandon	7	7 (complete)
South Hanningfield	12	11 (1 vacancy)
South Woodham Ferrers	20	20 (complete)
Springfield	15	15 (complete)
Stock	9	7 (2 vacancies)
West Hanningfield	9	6 (3 vacancies)
Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre	9	7 (2 vacancies)
Writtle	15	15 (complete)

List of appendices:
Nil

Background papers:
Nil

___

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: These are set out in the RIPA policies referred to in the report

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees: none

Relevant Policies and Strategies: