

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 12 October 2022
Report for: Decision
Report of: Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Report Title

Publication of Members' Addresses on the Declaration of Interests Register

Summary

To receive Standards Committee's recommendation in respect of the publication of members' addresses on the public register of Members' Interests.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) the reports, investigations and consultation undertaken by the Standards Committee be noted and:
- (b) Council determines whether Standards Committee's preferred proposal to apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available, should be adopted by the Council.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Ian Cockill
Phone: 1387

Background Papers:

None

Implications

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	N/A
Financial	There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	The proposal is concerned with Section 32 of the Localism Act 2011 and is deemed not to infringe the need for actual disclosure of an interest. It does, however, remove the Monitoring Officer discretion under the Act exercised in withholding publication presently.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None
Sustainability Implications	None
Carbon Reduction	None
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	None
Risk Management Implications	None
Health and Safety Implications	None

1.0 Background

- 1.1** The Standards Committee received a report on the 22 September 2022 (attached) regarding the publication of members' addresses on the published Declarations of Interest pages within Trafford and advising on the outcome of a consultation exercise carried out amongst Elected Members.
- 1.2** Current practice is for the member concerned to request the Monitoring Officer to determine whether to treat an interest as a sensitive interest on a case-by-case basis (under section 32 (1) (b) of the Localism Act 2011).

2.0 Proposal from Standards Committee

- 2.1** The Standards Committee was presented with 3 options which could be applied regarding the requirement to register members' addresses and after careful deliberation decided that Council be recommended:
- To apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available.
- 2.2** Safety, not only of Members but family was of primary importance to the Committee and it considered that disclosure of the residential property could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.
- 2.3** The recommended action would mirror the approach already taken by a few authorities including City of Westminster Council.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that:

- (c) the reports, investigations and consultation undertaken by the Standards Committee be noted and:
- (d) Council determines whether Standards Committee's preferred proposal to apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available, should be adopted by the Council.