



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**25 October 2016**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

# ITEM 5

## Ethical Governance Update

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 It is essential that the Council retains high standards of ethical governance for all of its Elected Members so that the public for transparency reasons and also to ensure that the Code of Conduct is being adhered to.
- 1.2 Following the local elections in May 2016, and the by-election in September 2016, all Elected members have been required to undertake DBS checks and ensure their Declarations of Interest Forms are reviewed and updated
- 1.3 Due to health reasons, Councillor Wright was unable to participate in the DBS process and the Committee is therefore requested to consider a dispensation in this regard
- 1.4 The Standards Committee currently has one vacancy for an Independent Person. The vacancy was advertised on the Council's website, along with recruitment for independent persons on the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Audit and Accounts Committee.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note that all Councillors have updated and or completed Declarations of Interest which are now publicly available in the Council's website.
- 2.2 To note that 50 of the 51 Councillors have participated in the DBS process
- 2.3 To approve that Councillor Wright is granted a dispensation from participating in and completing the DBS process.
- 2.4 To note that recruitment is currently underway for independent persons on the Standards Committee, the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Audit and Accounts Committee.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for upholding ethical governance for the Elected Members of Derby City Council.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 4.1 Declarations of Interest

There is a mandatory requirement upon all Councillors to ensure that their Declarations of Interests are up to date. If a Councillor becomes aware of having a disclosable pecuniary interest (hereafter referred to as a DPI) then this must be formally declared within 28 days of becoming aware of the DPI.

4.2 Following the Local Elections, all Councillors regardless as to whether they had been elected in May, were requested to carefully review their Declarations of Interest.

4.3 This exercise has now been completed and all Declarations of Interest are available for public inspection on the Council's website.

4.4 Co-opted members and other non-elected persons attending Council Meetings are also required to complete Declarations of Interest. These too are in the process of being updated.

### 4.5 Disclosure and Barring Service checks

With a view to continuing to strengthen all aspects of governance arrangements, the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer have required all Councillors to complete Disclosure and Barring Service checks (hereafter referred to as DBS checks).

4.6 In previous years, DBS checks have only been a requirement for those with appointed or specific roles, such as visits to Children's Homes.

4.7 To date 50 Councillors have completed their DBS checks. However for reasons linked with Councillor Wright's health the DBS service has refused to accept his submitted form. Numerous attempts have been made to submit the form but these have been rejected on each occasion.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 By failing to undertake any of the functions described in this report, the Council would be failing in its ethical governance standards.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Janie Berry, Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer      Steven Mason, Democratic Services Officer
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Janie Berry 01332 643616 janie.berry@derby.gov.uk Members Code of Conduct Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 None arising from this report

**Legal**

- 2.1 None arising from this report

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None arising from this report

**IT**

- 4.1 None arising from this report

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 Non arising from this report

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 None arising from this report

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 None arising from this report

**Property and Asset Management**

- 8.1 None arising from this report

**Risk Management and Safeguarding**

- 9.1 It is essential that Councillors undertaking visits to Children's Homes and other residential establishments have a completed and up to date DBS check.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1 The Council is taking all steps to strengthen governance.