

Title of Report:	Publication of Councillors' Registration of Interests on Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council website
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	27 April 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-2025)	
Strategic Theme	Innovation and Transformation
Outcome	Council increases the use of technology and virtual processes to maximise the efficiency of its people and processes delivering high quality customer experiences
Lead Officer	Democratic & Central Services Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO N/A
Capital/Revenue	Nil
Code	Nil
Staffing Costs	No additional cost

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is that Council consider approving the Councillors' Registration of Interests to be published on the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council website after its Annual Meeting, in June 2021 and each year, thereafter.

2.0 **Background**

- 2.1 There are seven out of the eleven Local Councils in N Ireland that publish their Councillors' Registration of Interests on their respective websites (Appendix1).
- 2.2 The remaining four Councils, including Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have a Register open for inspection at a Council building, for example at its administrative headquarters, upon request. Of which, one Council has informed it is their '*intention*' to make the Register available on their website (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council).
- 2.3 The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, Disclosure and registration of councillors' interests, etc, 62 (3) states, '*A council must ensure that copies of the register maintained under this section are available at an office of the council for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours*'.
- 2.4 Pre-coronavirus, Democratic Services facilitated requests from Members of the Public to inspect the hard copy Councillors' Registration of Interests, at a pre-arranged date and time, during office opening hours, at one of its administrative buildings. Often, when this information has been communicated to members of the public, the opportunity to view the Register has not been taken up.

3.0 **Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that Council publish its Councillors' Registration of Interests on its website www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk, in addition to the current arrangement of providing members of the public the opportunity to inspect the hard copy Register, Health Protection Regulations permitting.
- 3.2 The published Registration of Interests will take the form of a transcribed Microsoft Word document into 'PDF', the information obtained from the original signed copy submitted to Democratic Services by the Elected Member, along with the date of receipt of the Registration of Interest (example at Appendix 2).
- 3.3 In-year, updated Registration of Interests will remain published for the Annual period, with a view to a new Register being published each year after Council's Annual Meeting.

- 3.4 Sensitive information will be dealt with in line with the [Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct](#), Part 5, Rules Relating to the Registration of Interests:

5.4 Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your Chief Executive agrees, you need not include that sensitive information when registering that interest or, as the case may be, a change to the interest.

5.5 In the Code, "sensitive information" means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

- 3.5 Benefits surrounding the accessibility of the Councillors' Registration of Interests include reaching a wider group of its citizens, for example those with impaired vision using the website 'Browsealoud', and 'Languages' facility for translation.
- 3.6 Benefits also include Council demonstrating openness and transparency.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the Councillors' Registration of Interests to be published on the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council website after its Annual Meeting, in June 2021, followed by in-year updated Councillors' Registration of Interests, as necessary and each year, thereafter.

Appendix 1 - NI Local Government Council's Registration of Interests website links

Appendix 2 - Copy – Blank Councillor Registration of Interests for publication

Appendix 1

NI Local Government Council's Registration of Interests website links

Council	Location
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Available for inspection
Ards and North Down Borough Council	Published
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	Available for inspection <i>'intention'</i> to publish
Belfast City Council	Published
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Available for inspection
Derry City and Strabane District Council	Published
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Available for inspection
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	Published
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Published
Mid Ulster District Council	Published
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Published



Name

COUNCILLOR NAME

District Electoral Area

COUNCILLOR DEA

As required under paragraph 5.2 of the Code of Conduct, you must within 28 days of your election or appointment to office register your personal interests (both financial and otherwise).

In order to comply with this requirements please list below any such interests where they fall within any of the following categories as mentioned in the Code:-

- a) any employment or business carried on by you;

- b) any person who employs or has appointed you, any firm in which you are a partner or any company for which you are a remunerated or non-remunerated director;

- c) any person, other than your council, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor;

- d) any corporate body which has a place of business or land within your Council's district, and in which you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body;

- e) any contract for goods, services or works made between your Council and your or a firm in which you are a partner, an unincorporated body (i.e. Industrial and Provident Society), a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph (d) above;

- f) any land in which you have a beneficial interest and which is within your Council's district;



g) any land where the landlord is your Council and the tenant is a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph (d) above;

h) any body to which you have been elected, appointed or nominated by our Council;

i) any-

- (aa) public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature;
 - (bb) company, industrial and provident society, charity, or body directed to charitable purposes;
 - (cc) body whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy;
 - (dd) trade union, or professional association;
 - (ee) Private club, society or association operating within your Council's district;
- in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management;
and

j) any land within your Council's district in which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer.

I declare that the information given above is accurate.

NAME (Block Capitals) _____

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____