

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

**DATE:** 5 March 2020

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sushil Thobhani, Service Lead Governance & Deputy  
Monitoring Officer  
**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875036

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION – Registration of Interests**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the proposed amended wording of Paragraph 4.1 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct as agreed by the Member Panel on the Constitution and seek the approval of the Committee to place this revision before the Monitoring Officer and full Council for their respective approvals. This amendment was marked 'to follow' on the Revision of the Constitution - Agenda Item 7 (Paragraph 5.3.8)

##### **2 Recommendation to Council**

The Committee is requested to approve the revision to the Council's Constitution set out in this Report and to agree to this revision being placed before the Monitoring Officer and full Council for approval.

##### **3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

The delivery of all these strategic priorities is dependent on the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. The adoption of the revisions to the Council's Constitution recommended in this report will serve to enhance the delivery of these priorities through good governance procedures.

##### **4 Other Implications**

###### **(a) Financial**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

###### **(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Acts implications arising from this report. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to prepare, keep up to date and to publicise a constitution, whose contents are partly prescribed by statute and partly matters of local content, within a statutory framework.

###### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

There is no identified need for an EIA arising from the subject matter of this Report.

## 5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 the Member Panel on the Constitution considered revised wording for Paragraph 4.1 (Registration of Interests) of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The Panel was advised that the Paragraph, as worded, did not state the legal position clearly. The Panel agreed that it should be reworded to state the legal position with regard what would constitute a criminal offence and that the Monitoring Officer would agree revised wording with the Chair of the Panel. It was agreed that the approval of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee would be sought at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to place the revision before the Monitoring Officer and full Council for their respective approvals.
- 5.2 The proposed amendment is attached at Appendix 1 with changes shown track changed.

## 6. **Comments of other Committees**

The amendments proposed in this Report have been considered and approved by the Member Panel on the Constitution.

## 7. **Conclusion**

The revisions to the Council's Constitution recommended by this Report will enhance good governance by providing an updated, clearer and more robust guide for Members and Officers in the conduct of the Council's affairs.

## 8. **Background Papers**

None

## 9 **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Proposed amendments to Paragraph 4.1 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct