

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2015**

REPORT BY: **MONITORING OFFICER**

SUBJECT: **ADVICE ON INTERESTS AND COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To approve the attached draft advice note on interests and community asset transfers for circulation to county, town and community councillors.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Council has many buildings and pieces of land that are used by the community for leisure/recreation. These include local community centres, playing fields, and open spaces. It has asked town and community councils as well as voluntary organisations whether they wish to take over the operation of these assets in order to secure their futures by way of community asset transfers ("CAT").

2.02 A number of local councils have agreed to take on the assets themselves and others have encouraged community groups to do so. At least one town council is facilitating the creation of an "umbrella trust" to provide help and support to local voluntary groups that want to take on assets.

2.03 It is often the case that councillors are also involved in local community groups, and a number of county councillors are also on town/community councils. This means that when considering the issue of CAT a councillor may have several roles and may thus need to consider declaring a personal or personal and prejudicial interest under the code.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The attached advice note sets out the relevant sections of the Code of Conduct as well as the guidance issued by the Ombudsman. It then goes on to advise councillors when it might be appropriate to declare an interest and at what "level". Lastly, it reminds councillors about the ability to seek dispensation.

3.02 If the committee is satisfied with the wording of the note then the advice can be circulated to all councillors (via email for county

councillors and via their clerks for local councillors). It can also be posted on the County Council' website.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 To approve the advice note and circulate it to all county, town and community councillors.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The CAT programme will protect much needed local assets that can help to reduce the impact of poverty.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 This committee.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 This advice note will be debated at the annual joint meeting with town and community councils.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Advice Note on Interests and Community Asset Transfer

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

As referred to in the report.

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