Declarations of Interest (see also "Advice to Members" below)

- (a) <u>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)</u> under the Localism Act 2011, relating to items on this agenda. The <u>nature</u> as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.
 - A Member who declares a DPI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting for that item (unless a Dispensation has been granted in advance, to speak and/or vote).
- (b) Other Significant Interests (OSI) under the Kent Code of Conduct relating to items on this agenda. The <u>nature</u> as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.
 - A Member who declares an OSI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting <u>before</u> the debate and <u>vote</u> on that item (unless a Dispensation has been granted in advance, to participate in discussion and/or vote). However, prior to leaving, the Member may address the Committee in the same way that a member of the public may do so.
- (c) <u>Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests</u> not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b), i.e. announcements made for transparency or good governance reasons, such as:
 - Membership of amenity societies, Town/Community/Parish Councils, residents' groups or other outside bodies that have expressed views or made representations, but the Member was not involved in compiling or making those views/representations, or
 - Where a Member knows a person involved, but does <u>not</u> have a close association with that person, or
 - Where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but <u>not</u> his/her financial position.

<u>Note</u>: Where an item would be likely to affect the <u>financial position</u> of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc.; OR where an item is <u>an application made</u> by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc., there is likely to be an OSI or in some cases a DPI. ALSO, <u>holding a committee position/office</u> within an amenity society or other outside body, OR having any <u>involvement</u> in compiling/making views/representations by such a body, may give rise to a perception of bias (similar to that arising when a Member has made his/her views known in advance of the meeting), and require the Member to take no part in any motion or vote.

Advice to Members on Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Government Guidance on DPI is available in DCLG's Guide for Councillors, at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5962/2193362.pdf
- (b) The Kent Code of Conduct was adopted by the Full Council on 19 July 2012, and a copy can be found in the Constitution alongside the Council's Good Practice Protocol for Councillors dealing with Planning Matters. See https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/2098/z-word5-democratic-services-constitution-2019-constitution-of-abc-may-2019-part-5.pdf
- (c) Where a Member declares a committee position or office within, or membership of, an outside body that has expressed views or made representations, this will be taken as a statement that the Member was <u>not involved</u> in compiling or making them and has retained an open mind on the item(s) in question. <u>If this is not the case</u>, the <u>situation must be explained</u>.

If in doubt about any matters that they may need to declare, Members should seek advice from the Corporate Director (Law and Governance) and Monitoring Officer, the Deputy

Monitoring Officer, or other Solicitors in Legal and Democracy as early as possible, <u>and in advance of the Meeting</u> .