



Standards Committee

23 June 2026

Subject: Update - English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 - public disclosure of residential addresses

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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(Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Executive Summary:

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026, makes significant amendments to how the publication of councillor's residential addresses is to be dealt with. The requirement, which comes into force on 29 June 2026 will establish that the publication of a councillor's home address on their Member Interest form is no longer required as standard, and the Council will only publish the member's residential address with explicit consent.

To advise of the action the Monitoring Officer has taken to respond to this change in legislation

Appendices to Report

- Communications issued to District Councillors and Parish Clerks.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Members note this update and the approach adopted by West Lindsey District Council's Monitoring Officer to ensure the required legislative changes are made.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 16 December 2025 received a [report](#) titled “Proposed Amendments to English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill - allowing the right for councillors not to publicly disclose their home addresses”. The report advised that the Government had tabled a number of amendments to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, including the right for Councillors not to publicly disclose their home addresses. The Bill has received Royal Assent in the first half of 2026. [English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026](#)
- 1.2 The relevant section of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026, will come into force on 29 June 2026
- 1.3 Section 65 of the 2026 Act will establish that the publication of a councillor’s residential address is no longer required as standard, as such the legal default position is that a councillor’s usual residential address **must not** be published in the public register. Councillors may request that their home address be included, but this will only be published with their explicit consent.

2 Approach at West Lindsey District Council to address the change in legislation

- 2.1 Monitoring Officers and democratic services teams are advised to take a number of practical steps to ensure compliance.

1. Inform councillors

Advise all councillors that they have the option to request publication of their residential address, if they wish and that their main residential address will be redacted, without explicit consent. Issue explicit consent forms

2. Apply consistently across tiers

Ensure the same approach is adopted for town and parish councils within your area, where applicable, by issuing advice to clerks.

3. Amend public registers

Remove councillors’ home addresses and replace them with the wording: ‘*The councillor has an interest, the address of which is withheld under section 32A of the Localism Act 2011.*’

4. Update standard forms

Revise Register of Interests templates for future - to reflect the need to register the home address but that this section will not be publicly available as the new default position, and opt-in provision.

- 2.2 During late May and early June 2026, the Monitoring Officer and her team have completed actions 1-2 above, (see attached appendices). Communications were issued both directly via email and again in the

Members Newsletter and Parish Newsletter. It is anticipated action 3 will be all but completed by 29 June 2026.

- 2.3 New template forms will be created in due course and will be issued to any new Councillors post 1 July 2026.
- 2.4 It should be noted this right to non-disclosure on a public register, only relates to the main residential address. Requests to withhold other information from public registers will need to be made in the normal manner, and this fact has been made clear in communications to both District Councillors and Parish Clerks.
- 2.5 The Committee are asked to note the approach taken to comply with the change in legislation.

3 Alternative Options

	Option	Rational for not recommending
1	To take no action	This would not address legal requirements and would be in breach of legislation.
2	To ask all Councillors and Parish Councillors to provide new forms (including opt provision) in the first instance.	The collation process for this would make compliance before 29 June difficult given the number of parish councillors and the frequency of their meetings. – the approach taken was considered more effective in the first instance.

ASSOCIATED IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The work that has been carried out will ensure compliance with Section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026.

Financial:

There are no financial implications arising from this report

Staffing:

The change in approach requires the redaction and republication of a large number of documents. The work has been accommodated with existing resources within the Democratic Services team.

LGR implications:

LGR does not affect this decision, this is national legislation.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

N/A

Data Protection Implications:

The legislation is clear; the authority only has the right to publish the homes address if the Councillor gives their explicit consent. Deviation from this would not be in accordance with data protection requirements.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

N/A

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

This change in legislation is designed to give greater safeguards to elected members.

Health Implications:

N/A

Risk Assessment:

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Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

ADSO - Legal Briefing Note for Monitoring Officer and Democratic Team

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

x