

Council interests declared online

Published: 15:30 Friday 23 April 2010

SCARBOROUGH Council has become one of the first local authorities in the country to post the declarations of interest of its senior officers on its website.

The details were published this week and contain the declarations of 11 of the council's most senior officers, all of whom have salaries in excess of 59,000 – including the authority's chief executive Jim Dillon who, it was revealed this year, earns over 100,000.

The other officers are strategic directors David Archer and Hilary Jones, Ian Anderson, the council's legal chief, Nick Edwards, who is in charge of the council's finances, Andy Skelton, head of environmental services, John Riby, head of technical services, planning boss Pauline Elliot, head of tourism and culture Brian Bennett, human resources chief Roger Kaye and Nicola Willis, head of transformational management.

Gill Wilkinson, the authority's democratic and administrative services manager said: "The council has published the register of interests for all of its senior management on its website, in the same way that the interests of all borough councillors are published.

"This was made possible by adapting the software, called Modern.Gov which the council uses to collate councillor details and organise all of its democratic information.

"Scarborough Borough Council is the first council to use the software in this way and is one of the first authorities to publish senior officers' declaration of interests.

"As well as providing details of each senior officers register of interests, the web pages also state what committees and outside bodies the officers are involved in together with a photo of each officer.

"All council officers who have a personal interest that could potentially conflict with the interests of the council, such as involvement with an organisation or pressure group which may seek to influence the council's policies, or which receives council assistance, must register this interest with the council."



Although the council has said it had plans to publish the declarations of interest itself, the details have been released following a lengthy campaign by local activist Nigel Ward.

Mr Ward said: "I'm delighted this information is finally up on the website – I wish all of it was. It's been a long campaign to get this information in the public domain – I've been working on this since 29 September last year.

"I'm not sure the campaign is over yet – I will be examining the declarations in fine detail."

[Click here to view the officers declarations](#)