

## **AC8. Annual Accounts - Related Party Transactions and Registers of Gifts & Hospitality and Extra Mural Employments**

The committee considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer which presented a request from Falkirk Council and information in respect of related party transactions for Chief Officers and Senior Managers as part of the 2019/20 annual accounts process.

The Council had requested that a "Statement of Assurance" was completed on behalf of Adult Social Work Services to record related party transactions in respect of IJB members and/or senior management during financial year 19/20. The statement of assurance was effectively an annual declaration of interests which formed part of the Local Authority annual accounts process. This reflected the requirements of the "Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting" whereby all related party transactions must be disclosed as part of the notes to the accounts in a bid to improve corporate governance and transparency in terms of potential conflicts of interest and to maintain public confidence in local government processes.

As part of the IJB's code of conduct the IJB maintained a register of interests detailing the related party transactions of all IJB members. It was recommended that the register was routinely shared with Falkirk Council in order to provide the required disclosure information. In order to fully support the Council's compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounts, it was recommended that the IJB's existing register of interests was expanded to also include the interests of the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Decision**

**The committee agreed that:-**

- (1) the register of interests was expanded to include the Senior Leadership Team;**
- (2) the new expanded register of interests would be reviewed on an annual basis by the Senior Leadership Team, and**
- (3) the expanded IJB register of interests was shared with Falkirk Council on an annual basis in order to support disclosure requirements in respect of related party transactions as part of their annual accounts process.**