

# CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2007

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REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AGENDA ITEM: 5

## REGISTRATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

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### Reason for this Report

1. To request the Committee to consider the information submitted in connection with its review of the threshold for the registration of gifts and hospitality by Members and Officers, and to make an appropriate recommendation to the Council in this regard.

### Background

2. Under the Members' and Officers' Codes of Conduct, Members and Officers are required to register any gifts, hospitality or other benefits where the value of the item or benefits exceeds an amount determined by the Council from time to time (Members' Code of Conduct Part III paragraph 22; and Employees' Code of Conduct paragraph 8).
3. The current financial thresholds for the registration of gifts, hospitality and other benefits received by Members and Officers within Cardiff Council are specified within the Guidance issued by the Council under the Code of Conduct for Members and Employees on Hospitality, Gifts and Other Benefits (paragraph 15) as follows:
  - 'Gifts – estimated value of £125 or greater;
  - Hospitality and other benefits – estimated value of £190 or greater for each relevant occasion or payment.'

Definitions of 'Gifts', 'Hospitality' and 'Other benefits' are set out in the Guidance (paragraph 2). The Guidance further states that the thresholds are to be reviewed by the Council as necessary, in consultation with the Standards Committee.

4. At its meeting on 5 June 2007 the Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer (dated 22/05/07) on the registration of gifts and hospitality; and indicated that it was minded to recommend that the Council's threshold for the registration of gifts and hospitality should be reduced to £25, in line with the threshold set for all local authorities in

England by the Standards Board for England. However, the Committee agreed to defer its decision to consider further information on this issue, and to receive representations from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Rodney Berman. A further report was presented by the Monitoring Officer to the Committee meeting on 17 July 2007 providing logistical information which has been gathered on behalf of the Monitoring Officer; and the Committee heard the representations of the Leader, Councillor Rodney Berman. The Committee resolved to further discuss and make a decision on this matter at its September meeting.

## Issues

5. Information obtained from local authorities in 3 other major cities - Birmingham City Council, Manchester City Council and the Greater London Authority was presented to the Committee in the Monitoring Officer's July report. However, at the date of that meeting, the Greater London Authority had not confirmed the approximate number of registrations which had been made over the last 12 months. It has since been confirmed that the Greater London Authority recorded 246 registrations during this period.
6. The Committee is invited to review Cardiff Council's current thresholds for the registration of gifts and hospitality in light of all the information presented at its previous meetings (on 05/06/07 and 17/07/07) and this meeting, and to make any consequent recommendations to Council.

## ADVICE

This report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer. It contains all the information necessary to allow Members to arrive at a reasonable view, taking into account the advice contained in this section.

### Legal Implications

The relevant legal provisions and the implications of these are contained within the body of this report.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee reviews the current thresholds set for the registration of gifts and hospitality within Cardiff Council, and makes any consequent recommendations to the Council.

**Kate Berry**  
**Monitoring Officer and City & County Solicitor**  
10 September 2007

## **Background papers**

Monitoring Officer's Reports to Standards & Ethics Committee 'Registration of Gifts and Hospitality' dated 22 May 2007 (considered at the Committee meeting on 05/06/07); 5 October 2006; and 17 July 2007; and minutes of the Committee's decisions on 5 October 2006, and 5 June 2007

Cardiff Council Members' Code of Conduct

Cardiff Council Employees' Code of Conduct

Cardiff Council Guidance Issued under the Code of Conduct for Members and Employees 'Hospitality, Gifts and Other Benefits' (January 2007)