

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE: 22nd NOVEMBER 2017

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL
SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

**REGISTRATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY RECEIVED BY
MEMBERS**

Reason for this Report

1. To enable the Committee to consider the gifts and hospitality received by Members, which have been registered in accordance with rules set under the Members' Code of Conduct; and to make any appropriate comments or recommendations in this regard.

Background

2. The Standards and Ethics Committee's terms of reference include the following:
" (a) To monitor and scrutinise the ethical standards of the Authority, its Members, employees and any associated providers of the Authority's services, and to report to the Council on any matters of concern.
 (b) To advise the Council on the content of its Ethical Code and to update the Code as appropriate.
 (c) To advise the Council on the effective implementation of the Code including such matters as the training of Members and employees on the Code's application."
3. The Members' Code of Conduct (paragraph 17), requires Members to register the receipt of any gifts, hospitality or other benefits where the value of the item or benefits exceeds a threshold determined by the Council from time to time.
4. The Council's threshold for registration of gifts and hospitality received by Members has been set, on the recommendations of this Committee (in October 2007), at £25 (in line with the threshold then applied to all local authorities in England by the Standards Board for England).
5. The Committee has requested regular reports on the registration of gifts and hospitality received by Members. At its meeting on 30th November 2016, the Committee considered gifts and hospitality registered during the period from 17th September 2015 to 30th September 2016.

Issues

6. The Register of Members' Gifts and Hospitality held by the Democratic Services Manager on behalf of the Monitoring Officer shows the registrations set out in **Appendix A** for the period from 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017.
7. For Members' information, the Council's Guidance on Guidance on Hospitality, Gifts and Other Benefits Received by Members (with the Members' Registration Form) is attached as **Appendix B**.

Legal Implications

8. There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to note the information supplied at **Appendix A** on the registration of hospitality, gifts and other benefits received by Members during the period from 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017; and make any comments considered appropriate.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

13th November 2017

APPENDICES

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| Appendix A | Register of Member's Hospitality, Gifts & Other Benefits, 1 st October 2016 to 30 th September 2017. |
| Appendix B | Guidance on Hospitality, Gifts and Other Benefits Received by Members (with Members Registration Form) |

Background papers

Report to Standards & Ethics Committee, 'Members' Gifts and Hospitality Register', 30th November 2016