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10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A- Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director of Resources

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title:**

Review of Members' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

This report sets out details of declarations of gifts and hospitality made by members since the Committee last reviewed these at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The Committee is asked to consider the declarations

**Recommendations:**

The Ethics Committee is recommended to:

1. consider the gifts and hospitality register entries received from 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1: Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Review of Members' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 The Ethics Committee has, as part of its work programme, decided to review on a regular basis the declarations of gifts and hospitality made by members. Appendix 1 contains copies of all declarations received from members from the date of its last meeting (29<sup>th</sup> August 2014) to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The declarations received are attached as Appendix 1. In total eleven forms have been received from five individual elected members. There have been no requests by members of the public to view the register during this time.
- 2.2 The Committee is recommended to consider the declarations made since its last meeting.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 None.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

Any recommendations of the Committee will be implemented within an appropriate time frame.

### **5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

- 5.1 Financial implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

- 5.2 Legal implications

Members are required to declare Gifts and Hospitality under section 4 of the Code of Conduct for Elected Members at Part 4 of the Council's Constitution. Whilst there is no statutory requirement for members to declare in this way, maintaining a process and Register aids transparency and assists the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of ethical behaviour as is required under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011.

### **6 Other implications**

None

- 6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

Not applicable.

- 6.2 How is risk being managed?**

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the contents of this report, but a failure to implement and maintain a system of Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality can impact on the organisation's ethical behaviour and transparency.

### 6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The routine declaration of gifts and hospitality received should assist in protecting Elected Members from unfounded allegations of bias and facilitate good and clear transparent decision making.

### 6.4 Equalities / EIA

There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance at this stage.

### 6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

### 6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None at this stage

**Report author(s): Carol Bradford**

**Name and job title:** Solicitor, Legal and Democratic Services

**Directorate:** Resources

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Resources	27.02.15	
Helen Lynch	Place and Regulatory Manager, Legal Services	Resources	16.02.15	
Adrian West	Democratic and Member Services Manager	Resources	16.02.15	
<b>Names of approvers for submission:</b> (officers and members)				
Finance: Carolyn Prince	Finance	Resources	20.02.15	27.02.15
Legal: Christine Forde	Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services	Resources	16.02.15	17.02.15
Director: Christine Forde on behalf of Chris West	Executive Director, Resources	Resources	16.02.15	17.02.15


Members: Councillor Hetheron	Chair, Ethics Committee	Elected Member		
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This report is published on the council's website:  
[www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)

## Appendix

To: Legal Services, Floor 1, Christchurch House, Greyfriars Lane, Coventry, CV1 2QL

### Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality

Name	LINDA BIGHAM
Post	COUNCILLOR
Department (if applicable)	n/a
What was the gift or Hospitality?	THEATRE SEATS + WINE
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£37.00
Who provided it?	BELGRADE THEATRE
When and where did you receive it?	16TH SEPTEMBER 2014
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	n/a
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	VIP TICKETS OFFERED TO ALL COUNCILLORS
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	CITY COUNCIL APPOINTED TRUSTEE
Signed 	Date 22 SEPTEMBER 2014


To: Legal Services, Floor 1, Christchurch House, Greyfriars Lane, Coventry, CV1 2QL

**Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality**

Name	Councillor Linda Bigham
Post	n/a
Department (if applicable)	n/a
What was the gift or Hospitality?	Tickets for performance and soft drinks
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£39.00
Who provided it?	Belgrade Theatre
When and where did you receive it?	Belgrade Theatre 21/10/14
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	n/a
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	No
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	Board Member. (The invitation was to all Councillors)
Signed L. Bigham	Date 03/11/14

To: The Monitoring Officer (Christine Forde), Room 56, Council House, Earl Street,  
Coventry, CV1 5RR


**Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality**

Name	Cllr John Blundell
Post	Leader of the Conservative Group
Department (if applicable)	
What was the gift or Hospitality?	Ticket for Wasp Rugby Match inc hospitality
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£30.00 approx
Who provided it?	The Wasps Rugby Team (CEO – Nick Eastwood)
When and where did you receive it?	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2014 – Ricoh Arena, Coventry
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	N/A
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	N/A
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	First ever game by the Wasps at the Ricoh Arena. Went to give support to the club in its new venture.
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed 	Date 7/1/15



To: The Monitoring Officer (Christine Forde), Room 56, Council House, Earl Street,  
Coventry, CV1 5RR


**Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality**

Name	Cllr David Kershaw
Post	Cabinet Member for Education
Department (if applicable)	
What was the gift or Hospitality?	2 x tickets for Wasp Rugby Match including hospitality 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£60.00 approx
Who provided it?	The Wasps Rugby Team (CEO – Nick Eastwood)
When and where did you receive it?	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2014 Ricoh Arena, Coventry
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	N/A
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	N/A
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	First ever game by the Wasps at the Ricoh Arena. Went to give support to the club in its new venture.
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed	Date
	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2015.

To: The Monitoring Officer (Christine Forde), Room 56, Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR


Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality

RECEIVED  
17 DEC 2014

Name	Ran P. Lakha
Post	Councillor
Department (if applicable)	
What was the gift or Hospitality?	VIP Ticket for Belgrade Theater on 28th Nov. 2014. <sup>accepted.</sup>
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£40 ? ?
Who provided it?	BELGRADE THEATER
When and where did you receive it?	BELGRADE THEATER
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	?
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	N/A.
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	None
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	<u>No</u> DIRECT CONTACT FOR ANY PERSONAL REASONS.
Signed	
Date	15/12/14.

To: Legal Services, Floor 1, Christchurch House, Greyfriars Lane, Coventry, CV1 2QL

**Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality**

Name	CLLR ANN LUCAS
Post	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Department (if applicable)	Policy and Governance – Political Leadership.
What was the gift or Hospitality?	NSPCC Annual Ball and Fundraising Event
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	Approximately £100.
Who provided it?	Mr Les Ratcliffe on behalf of Jaguar Land Rover Ltd and Coventry and Warwickshire NSPCC Business Board
When and where did you receive it?	01 April 2014 at Scarman House, University of Warwick
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	Yes. It was in the interest of the Council that I attend.
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	No
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	Promoting partnership working with JLR and NSPCC and networking with regional and local business leaders.
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed 	Date 30/09/2014

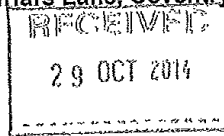
To: Legal Services, Floor 1, Christchurch House, Greyfriars Lane, Coventry, CV1 2QL


Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality

Name	CLLR ANN LUCAS
Post	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Department (if applicable)	Policy and Governance – Political Leadership.
What was the gift or Hospitality?	Gifted a 70cl bottle of Famous Grouse whisky
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£15
Who provided it?	Matthew Bates, Journalist at Coventry Observer
When and where did you receive it?	27 August 2014, Council House
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	Yes. It was in the interest of the Council that I accepted the gift and donate it to The Lord Mayors Office for the Lord Mayors Charity for fund raising purposes. ↳ Received 29/9/14 [REDACTED]
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	No
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	Matthew gave the gift as a thank you following a successful partnership working between journalist at the Coventry Observer and Coventry City Council. Matthew was leaving the employment of The Observer.
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed [REDACTED]	Date 26/09/2014

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Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality



Name	CLLR ANN LUCAS
Post	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Department (if applicable)	Policy and Governance -- Political Leadership.
What was the gift or Hospitality?	Invitation to all Elected Members to attend production of Propaganda Swing
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	2 x £16 per ticket
Who provided it?	David Jane, Belgrade Theatre Coventry
When and where did you receive it?	Tuesday 16 September 2014 at Belgrade Theatre Coventry
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	Yes. It was in the interest of the Council that I attend.
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	No
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	Promoting partnership working between Coventry City Council and networking with other organisations in the region
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed 	Date 28/10/14


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Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality

Name	CLLR ANN LUCAS
Post	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Department (if applicable)	Policy and Governance -- Political Leadership.
What was the gift or Hospitality?	Match tickets for football match Coventry City FC v Gillingham FC
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£5 for tea Tickets Self Paid
Who provided it?	ACL Holdings, Coventry
When and where did you receive it?	Friday 5 September 2014 at RICOH Arena Coventry
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	Yes. It was in the interest of the Council that I attend.
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	No
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	Promoting partnership working between Ricoh Arena, ACL Holdings and Coventry City Council.
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed 	Date 28/10/14


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**Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality**

Name	CLLR ANN LUCAS
Post	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Department (if applicable)	Policy and Governance – Political Leadership.
What was the gift or Hospitality?	WW1 Women's Football Event including refreshments
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	£10
Who provided it?	Metal Dog Media Coventry
When and where did you receive it?	Sunday 25 August 2014
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	Yes. It was in the interest of the Council that I attend.
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	No
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	Attending as their guest and opening the event. Promoting partnership working between Coventry City Council
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed 	Date 28/10/14

To: Legal Services, Floor 1, Christchurch House, Greyfriars Lane, Coventry, CV1 2QL

**Declaration of Receipt of Gifts or Hospitality**

Name	CLLR ANN LUCAS
Post	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Department (if applicable)	Policy and Governance – Political Leadership.
What was the gift or Hospitality?	RICS Presidents Inauguration Dinner
What is your best estimate of its market value or cost?	Approximately £50.
Who provided it?	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
When and where did you receive it?	Tuesday 9 September 2014 at Birmingham Council House
Does it come within one of the general consents set out in the Code of Conduct? If so, which?	Yes. It was in the interest of the Council that I attend.
Did you get the consent of any officer before accepting it? If so, who? (if applicable)	No
Were there any special circumstances justifying acceptance of this gift or hospitality?	Promoting partnership working between RICS and other regional business with Coventry City Council. Also present was Martin Reeves, CEO, Coventry City Council.
Do you have any contact in your job with the person or organisation providing the gift or hospitality?	No
Signed 	Date 28/10/14