

Ethics Committee

29 March 2018

Name of Cabinet Member:

N/A- Ethics Committee

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Six Monthly Review of Members' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality

Is this a key decision?

No

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 14 September 2017. The Committee is asked to consider the declarations.

Recommendations:

The Ethics Committee is recommended to consider the gifts and hospitality register entries received from 1 September 2017 to 28 February 2018 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 1 September 2017 and 28 February 2018.

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 1 September 2017 to 28 February 2018.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The declarations received since 1 September 2017 are attached as Appendix 1. In total three forms have been received from two 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 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

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 the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

- 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

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Appendix

Extracts from Members' Register of Gifts and Hospitality: 1 September 2017 to 28 February 2018