
Ethics Committee

6 November, 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 29 March 2018. 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 March 2018 to 31 August 2018 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 1 March 2018 and 31 August 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 March 2018 to 31 August 2018.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The declarations received since 1 March 2018 are attached as Appendix 1. In total 4 forms have been received from 2 elected members. In addition there are a further 6 declarations from two councillors who attended events at MIPIM, the international property event to which the Council sends a delegation every year. These forms have not been submitted separately by councillors, but form part of a dedicated spreadsheet of hospitality accepted at the event by officers and councillors. 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 in the last six months 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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Directorate: Place

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Graham Clark	Finance	Place	31.08.18	04.09.18
Julie Newman	Legal Services Manager	Place	29.08.18	04.09.18
Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	03.09.18	21.09.18
Cllr Walsh	Chair of Ethics Committee			

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Appendix

Extracts from Members' Register of Gifts and Hospitality: 1 March 2018 to 31 August 2018

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Ridley
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Leader of the Opposition
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	23.5.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Coventry University
Full details of what was received	3 course dinner at Coventry University – Chancellor's dinner.
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	Approx. £40
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Invited to the Chancellor's dinner, which also was the start of 175th anniversary celebration of the University. Attended the event to continue the good partnership working and close relationship the City Council have with the University.
Signature of member: Date:	 20.6.18

Name of Elected Member	Kalwinder Sandhu
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Elected member
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	27 May 2018
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	BBC
Full details of what was received	Two tickets for each of the days 27 May and 28 May for the BBC Biggest Weekend.
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£23 each
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	The Biggest Weekend was held in War Memorial Park and it is in my ward. It was important to visit the festival and meet local residents. I got a feel for the benefit it brings to the city. I also attend Friends of War Memorial Park committee meetings and so I could hear and give feedback on the event and how it raises the profile of the park and city of Coventry.
Signature of member:	K Sandhu
Date:	19 June 2018

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Ridley
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Leader of the Opposition
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	28.5.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	BBC
Full details of what was received	VIP entrance to the BBC Big Weekend at the Memorial Park
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£22.50 (cost of ticket on general sale)
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	To help promote the city and the event, which will be attended by thousands of Coventry residents.
Signature of member: Date:	 20.6.18

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Ridley
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Leader of the Opposition
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	14.6.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Albany Theatre
Full details of what was received	Ticket for 'Half a sixpence' production
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£17.00
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Invited (as were all Councillors) to the VIP night of the production. Attended to show support for the theatre.
Signature of member: Date:	 20.6.18

Name of Elected Member	Cllr O'Boyle
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	14.3.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Wright Hassall
Full details of what was received	Drinks reception at MIPIM
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£15
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Partners event and networking
Signature of member: Date:	

Name of Elected Member	Cllr O'Boyle
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	14.3.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Friargate Coventry LLP
Full details of what was received	Coventry and Warwickshire VIP Dinner - Hotel De Mougins, MIPIM
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£150
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Private dinner with commercial partners and other distinguished guests networking and promoting Coventry and Friargate
Signature of member: Date:	

Name of Elected Member	Cllr O'Boyle
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	15.3.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Shearer Property Group
Full details of what was received	Polygon Riviera Visit and Lunch, MIPIM
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£35
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Partners event and networking
Signature of member: Date:	

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Brown
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Elected member
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	14.3.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Wright Hassall
Full details of what was received	Drinks reception at MIPIM
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£15
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Partners event and networking
Signature of member: Date:	

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Brown
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Elected member
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	14.3.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Friargate Coventry LLP
Full details of what was received	Coventry and Warwickshire VIP Dinner - Hotel De Mougins, MIPIM
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£150
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Private dinner with commercial partners and other distinguished guests networking and promoting Coventry and Friargate
Signature of member: Date:	

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Brown
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Elected member
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Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Shearer Property Group
Full details of what was received	Polygon Riviera Visit and Lunch, MIPIM
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£35
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Partners event and networking
Signature of member: Date:	