
Ethics Committee

26 June 2019

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 for the period 1 September 2018 to 28 February 2019. The Committee last reviewed these at its meeting on 6 November 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 September 2018 to 28 February 2019 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 1 September 2018 and 28 February 2019.

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 2018 to 28 February 2019.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The declarations received since 1 September 2018 are attached as Appendix 1. In total 8 forms have been received from 4 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 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 currently 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.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Place	14/06/19	17/06/19
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Graham Clark	Finance	Place	10/06/2019	10/06/2019
Julie Newman	Legal Services Manager	Place	07/06/2019	10/06/2019
Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	07/06/2019	10/06/2019
Cllr Walsh	Chair of Ethics Committee		14/06/19	18/06/2019

This report is published on the council's website:

Appendix

Extracts from Members' Register of Gifts and Hospitality: 1 September 2018 to 28 February 2019

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	23.11.18
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	The Belgrade Theatre
Full details of what was received	2 tickets for the VIP performance of Sleeping Beauty
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£35.00 x 2 (cost of ticket on general sale)
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	The Belgrade Theatre invited all Councillors to the VIP night, including the Lord Mayor.
Signature of member: Date:	 5.11.18

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	2.1.19
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Three Spires Theatre
Full details of what was received	2 tickets for the VIP performance of Beauty and the Beast
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£15.00 x 2 (cost of ticket on general sale)
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	The Theatre invited all Councillors to the VIP night, including the Lord Mayor.
Signature of member: Date:	 2.1.19

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Andrews
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	6.12.18
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	Gala Dinner
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	Approx. £75
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Asked to be a guest by Coventry University at their gala dinner to celebrate 175 years.
Signature of member: Date:	 2.1.19

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Andrews
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	6.1.19
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	KM&T was the organiser, but the host was Inspire Insurance.
Full details of what was received	Rugby match tickets Wasps V Northampton Saints plus hospitality
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	Approx. £100
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	To build relationships with the business community and to discuss potential impact of No Deal Brexit.
Signature of member:	
Date:	6.1.19

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Lynnette Kelly
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	13.12.18
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	Meal and wine
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	Estimate £30
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	Celebrating achievements of Coventry University, a major employer and economic driver for the city.
Signature of member:	
Date:	9.1.19

Name of Elected Member	Julia Lepoidevin
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Shadow Cabinet Member Children and Young People
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	6 th December 2018
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Coventry University Dinner
Full details of what was received	Meal with Wine
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	£50.00
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	A celebration of 175.00 years of Coventry University in the City.
Signature of member: Date:	J Lepoidevin 12.1.2019

Name of Elected Member	Cllr Andrews
Position held e.g. cabinet member, shadow cabinet member, elected member etc.	Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Date on which gift or hospitality was offered and received or accepted	13.1.19
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Coventry Blaze
Full details of what was received	The Blaze vs Flames game - European City of Sport celebration event.
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	Approx. £30 x 2 tickets
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	To show support for Coventry Blaze and the European City of Sport celebration event.
Signature of member:	
Date:	15.1.19

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	13.1.19
Person or organisation offering or providing the gift or hospitality and link to the Council if appropriate	Coventry Blaze
Full details of what was received	The Blaze vs Flames game - European City of Sport celebration event.
Actual cost or estimated cost e.g. face value of tickets, price of set menu at venue etc.	Approx. £30 x 2 tickets
Justification for accepting the gift or hospitality	To show support for Coventry Blaze and the European City of Sport celebration event.
Signature of member: Date:	 15.1.19