
19 March 2020

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 July to 31 December 2019. The Committee last reviewed these at its meeting on 12 September 2019. 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 July to 31 December 2019 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 1 July to 31 December 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 July to 31 December 2019. The time period covered by this report has been adjusted slightly to bring it in line with the time period covered by the report on Officer Gifts and Hospitality also on the agenda for this meeting.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The declarations received between 1 July 2019 and 31 December 2019 are attached as Appendix 1. In total 8 forms have been received from 6 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 of 2019 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

Report author(s): Carol Bradford

Name and job title: Corporate Governance Lawyer, Legal Services

Directorate: Place

Tel and email contact: 024 7697 7271 carol.bradford@coventry.gov.uk

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	04/03/20	04/03/2020
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Graham Clark	Finance	Place	04/03/2020	04/03/2020
Julie Newman	Legal Services Manager	Place	28/02/2020	03/03/2020
Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	04/03/2020	09/03/2020
Cllr Walsh	Chair of Ethics Committee		04/03/2020	04/03/2020

This report is published on the council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

Appendix: Extracts from Members' Register of Gifts and Hospitality: 1 July to 31 December 2019

