
Ethics Committee

8 October 2020

Name of Cabinet Member:

N/A- Ethics Committee

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Law and Governance

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Review of Members' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

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 2019 to 30 June 2020. The Committee was due to review declarations made during the last 6 months of 2019 at its meeting on 19 March 2020. That meeting was cancelled and so those declarations have been included in this report along with any declarations made during the first 6 months of 2020.

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 2019 to 30 June 2020 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

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 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

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. The Committee meeting due to be held on 19 March 2020 was cancelled and so this report includes a full 12 months of declarations, instead of the usual 6 months. Appendix 1 contains copies of all declarations received from members from 1 July to 30 June 2020.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The declarations received between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 are attached as Appendix 1. In total 9 forms have been received from 7 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 12 months to 30 June 2020 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

2.3 The requirement to declare gifts and hospitality is being considered as part of the proposed Model Code of Conduct produced by the Local Government Association. Officers will keep the Committee updated on any developments.

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 Director of Law and Governance

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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Cllr Walsh	Chair of Ethics Committee		16/09/20	16/09/20

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Appendix: Extracts from Members' Register of Gifts and Hospitality: 1 July to 30 June 2020

