
4 March 2021

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' and Officers' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality: 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Ethics Committee would normally, at this meeting, receive a report on declarations of gifts and hospitality by both Members and officers for the period 1 July to 31 December 2020. As a result of the Covid pandemic, no declarations by either Members or officers have been made during this period.

The Committee is asked to note the position.

Recommendations:

The Ethics Committee is asked to note the position regarding declarations.

List of Appendices included: None

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' and Officers' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality: 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Ethics Committee, as part of its Work Programme, reviews on a regular basis the declarations of gifts and hospitality made by both Members and officers.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The Committee would normally, at this meeting, receive a report on declarations of gifts and hospitality by both Members and officers for the period 1 July to 31 December 2020. As a result of the Covid pandemic, no declarations by either Members or officers have been made during this period. There have been no requests by Members of the public to view the register during this time.
- 2.2 The Committee is recommended to note the position.
- 2.3 If the Council decides to adopt the Model Code of Conduct produced by the Local Government Association, then Members will in future be required to declare gifts and hospitality offered but not accepted as well as those accepted. Appropriate advice will be given to Members on this point.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 None.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

Not applicable

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.

Officers are required to declare acceptance of gifts or hospitality under the Employee Code of Conduct.

6 Other implications

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, and officers, 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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