
Ethics Committee

30 March 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

N/A- Ethics Committee

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Chief Legal Officer

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 2022. The Committee reviewed the gifts and hospitality register entries received from 1 January to 30 June 2022 at its meeting on 29 September 2022. The Committee is asked to consider the most recent declarations.

Recommendations:

The Ethics Committee is recommended to consider the gifts and hospitality register entries received from 1 July to 31 December 2022 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

List of Appendices included:

- Appendix 1: General Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 1 July to 31 December 2022

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: Six Monthly 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. Appendices 1 and 2 contain copies of all declarations received from Members from 1 July to 31 December 2022.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The declarations received between 1 July to 31 December 2022 are at Appendix 1 of this report. There are 11 forms received from 10 elected Members.

2.2 The Ethics Committee at its meeting on 29 September 2022, asked that the next Six Monthly Review of Members' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality include a review of any gifts and hospitality declared following the Commonwealth Games 2022. It is confirmed that there are no declarations in respect of the Commonwealth Games.

2.3 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 2022 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 Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

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 Plan?

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) climate change and the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None at this stage

Report author(s): Julie Newman

Name and job title: Chief Legal Officer

Directorate: Law and Governance

Tel and email contact: 024 7697 7271 julie.newman@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	13/03/23	13/03/23
Sarah Harriott	Deputy Team Leader (Job-Share) Civil, Information and Governance Solicitor Regulatory Team	Law and Governance	13/03/23	13/03/23
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Finance	20/03/23	20/03/23

Julie Newman	Chief Legal Officer	Law and Governance	13/03/23	14/03/23
Cllr S Nazir	Chair of Ethics Committee		14/03/23	20/03/23

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