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Ethics Committee

28 September 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**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

This report sets out details of declarations of gifts and hospitality made by Members for the period 1 January to 30 June 2023. The Committee reviewed the gifts and hospitality register entries received from 1 July to 31 December 2022 at its meeting on 30 March 2023. 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 January to 30 June 2023 and to make any recommendations that it considers appropriate.

**List of Appendices included:**

- Appendix 1: General Declarations of gifts and hospitality received between 1 January to 30 June 2023

**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 January to 30 June 2023.

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The declarations received between 1 January to 30 June 2023 are at Appendix 1 of this report. There are 21 forms received from 9 elected Members.
- 2.2 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 first six months of 2023 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

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**Name and job title:** Chief Legal Officer

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Julie Newman	Chief Legal Officer	Law and Governance	11/09/23	12/09/23

Cllr S Nazir	Chair of Ethics Committee		11/09/23	12/09/23
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