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Ethics Committee

21 March 2024

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A- Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Law & Governance

**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 July to 31 December 2023. The Committee reviewed the gifts and hospitality register entries received from 1 January to 30 June 2023 at its meeting on 28 September 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 July to 31 December 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 July to 31 December 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 July to 31 December 2023.

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

- 2.1 The declarations received between 1 July to 31 December 2023 are at Appendix 1 of this report. There are 7 forms received from 7 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 last 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 Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law & 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 One Coventry 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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