

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

5th SEPTEMBER 2006

**PROTOCOL FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS
ON GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

RICHARD LONG, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek approval to the proposed Protocol dealing with gifts and hospitality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Protocol be approved.

BACKGROUND

3. It is an important principle of public service that both members and officers should avoid putting themselves in a position where their integrity is called into question because of any financial or other obligation. However, avoiding the appearance or perception of impropriety is almost as important as avoiding actual impropriety. One method of demonstrating this principle is for an authority to have a clear policy for dealing with offers of gifts or hospitality.
4. The Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 provides that it is an offence for any employee or member to corruptly receive or agree to receive any gift, loan, fee, reward or advantage or doing or not doing something in connection with the work of the Council. The Prevention of Corruption Act 1916 places the burden of proof on the giver or receiver of a gift etc. to prove that they did not act dishonestly.
5. Officers have, therefore, prepared a draft Protocol for members and officers on Gifts and Hospitality, which is appended to this report for Committee's approval or amendment.

Report prepared by: Richard Long
Director of Legal & Democratic Services

Contact Telephone: 729781