

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**4 NOVEMBER 2015**

**REGISTERS OF INTERESTS – REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To present details of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Officers and Members.
2. The Council's Code of Conduct requires Councillors and Co-opted Members to register their financial and other interests. The Monitoring Officer is required to establish and maintain a register of those interests. Councillors and Co-opted Members must make their declarations in writing to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the adoption of the code of conduct by the Council or their election or appointment. They must also submit written notification of any changes to those entries within 28 days of the changes taking place.
3. The register of interests provides a record of the interests and activities which may influence a Member's view, and which might affect the way in which they carry out their public duties.
4. Members register their interests in three ways:
  - (i) By completing an annual declaration of financial and personal interests. Middlesbrough Council's form has been adapted to include additional information that is also required as part of the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts, relating to disclosure of any material transactions between the Council and Related Parties.
  - (ii) By making declarations at meetings where they have interest in a matter to be considered at that meeting. Declarations made in such circumstances are recorded in the minutes of those meetings and are entered in the Register of Disclosures and General Notices.
  - (iii) By declaring and registering when receiving either gifts or hospitality with a value of £25 or more. The declaration should include details of the gift or hospitality, its approximate value and details of the person or body that provided it. Although not a

requirement, Members also occasionally register gifts or hospitality of lesser value.

Declarations are entered in a Register of Gifts and Hospitality. Details of entries received for the period April 2013 - August 2015 are attached at Appendix A – Members and Appendix B – Officers.

Responsibility for ensuring that these interests are declared and for submitting updates to their entries rests with the Member.

5. The Monitoring Officer is required to review the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Officers and Members on an annual basis and report details of the entries to the Standards Committee. The Registers may be inspected by the public during normal office opening hours.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6. That the Committee notes the report and the declarations made.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Copies of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Members and Officers were used in the preparation of this report.

## **AUTHOR**

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