

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Report of:** Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support

**Submitted to:** Standards Committee – 2 July 2019

**Subject:** Gifts and Hospitality

**Summary**

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, to ensure the Council’s Code of Conduct is complied with.

**Proposed decision(s)**

That the Committee notes the report and the declarations made.

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?</b>
Information	No	No	Not applicable

**Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan**

<b>Business Imperatives</b>	<b>Physical Regeneration</b>	<b>Social Regeneration</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A

**Ward(s) affected**

None.

**What is the purpose of this report?**

1. To present details of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Officers and Members.

**Why does this report require a Member decision?**

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.

## **Background**

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:
  - 4.1 By completing an annual declaration of financial and personal interests.
  - 4.2 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.
  - 4.3 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.
  - 4.4 Declarations are entered in a Register of Gifts and Hospitality. Details of entries received for the period January 2018 – May 2019 are attached at Appendix A – Members and Appendix B – Officers.

## **Why is this being recommended?**

5. To ensure the Council's Code of Conduct is complied with.

## **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

6. Not applicable.

## **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

7. 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.

### ***Financial***

8. Not applicable.

## ***The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough***

9. Not applicable.

### ***Policy Framework***

10. Not applicable.

### ***Wards***

11. All Members.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

12. Not applicable.

### ***Risk***

13. Not applicable.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

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

### **Appendices**

15. Appendix A – Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Members.  
Appendix B – Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Officers.

### **Background papers**

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

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