

Report of:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Standards Committee
Date:	22 January 2024
Title:	Review of Gifts and Hospitality
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Executive 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 that members and officers comply with the Members' Code of Conduct and the Officers' Code of Conduct, respectively.

Purpose

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

Background and relevant information

2. The Council's Code of Conduct requires Councillors and Co-opted Members to declare and register the receipt of either gifts or hospitality with a value of £25 or more. The Monitoring Officer is required to establish and maintain a register in relation of gifts and hospitality and to produce a report to Standards Committee, on an annual basis, outlining details any gifts and hospitality received by members and officers of the Council.

3. Members register their interests in three ways:

- By completing an annual declaration of financial and personal interests. These interests are published on the Council website under each individual councillor's profile. [Your Councillors | Middlesbrough Council](#)
- 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.
- 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. Declarations are entered in a Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

Details of entries received from Members for the period January 2022 – December 2022 are attached at Appendix A and for the period January 2023 – December 2023 Appendix B.

Details of entries received from Officers for the period January 2022 – December 2022 are attached at Appendix C and for the period January 2023 – December 2023 Appendix D.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

5. That Standards Committee notes the report and the declarations made.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

6. The Council's Code of Conduct requires Councillors and Co-opted Members to declare and register the receipt of either gifts or hospitality with a value of £25 or more.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

7. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

8. 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.

Strategic priorities and risks

9. The relevant risks this decision would influence are cited below, with an explanation as to why they are relevant and how it would affect each risk.

Reports will positively impact on risk of failure to achieve good governance by reducing the likelihood of it occurring.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

10. The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function, or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.

Financial

11. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	Appendix A – Members Register of Gifts and Hospitality 2022
2	Appendix B – Members Register of Gifts and Hospitality 2023
3	Appendix C – Officers Register of Gifts and Hospitality 2022
4	Appendix D – Officers Register of Gifts and Hospitality 2023

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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