

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Corporate Director of Legal and Corporate Services (Monitoring Officer), Charlotte Benjamin
Relevant Executive Member:	Mayor, Chris Cooke
Submitted to:	Standards Committee
Date:	29 June 2026
Title:	Review of Gifts and Hospitality
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Report is for information only
Subject to call in?	No
Why:	It is not an Executive Report

Proposed decision(s)

That the Standards Committee:

NOTES the report and the declarations made during the period 1 April 2025 to 20 May 2026.

Executive summary

In accordance with Middlesbrough Council's Constitution 5.11.14 (e), the Monitoring Officer is required to retain details of all declarations in relation to offers of gifts and hospitality in a register which is available for public inspection. The Monitoring Officer regularly reviews the register for Elected Members and Officers to ensure that Members and Officers comply with the Members' Code of Conduct and the Officers' Code of Conduct, respectively. In the interests of transparency, details of the register entries are reported annually to the Standards Committee.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present details of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Elected Members and Officers for the Committee’s information.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	Transparent monitoring reduces the risk of undue influence, ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of the community and local economy, which contributes to each of the council ambitions.
A healthy Place	
Safe and resilient communities	
Delivering best value	This report will contribute towards the Council Plan ambition to deliver best value by ensuring robust and effective corporate governance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee

- Notes the report and the declarations made during the period 1 April 2025 to 20 May 2026.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The Council’s Codes of Conduct require Elected and Co-opted Members¹ and Officers² to declare and register the receipt of either gifts or hospitality with a value of £25 or more.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 The Council’s Codes of Conduct require Elected and Co-opted Members¹ and Officers² to declare and register the receipt of either gifts or hospitality with a value of £25 or more. The Monitoring Officer is required to retain details of all declarations in relation to offers of gifts and hospitality in a register which is available for public inspection, in accordance with Middlesbrough Council’s Constitution Section 5.11.14 (e).

- 4.2 The Monitoring Officer regularly reviews the register for Elected Members and Officers to ensure that Members and Officers comply with the Members’ Code of Conduct and the Officers’ Code of Conduct, respectively. In the interests of transparency, the details of the register entries are reported annually to the Standards Committee.

¹ Middlesbrough Council Constitution – Section 8.9.42 – Members’ Code of Conduct

² Middlesbrough Council Constitution – Section 9.11.12 – Officers’ Code of Conduct

4.3 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 Member’s profile.
- 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.

4.4 Declarations are entered in a Register of Gifts and Hospitality and the Monitoring Officer’s rationale for approval or refusal is included. Copies of all request forms for consent to accepted a gift of hospitality are retained by Democratic Services.

Details of entries received from Members for the period 1 April 2025 – 20 May 2026 are attached at Appendix A.

Details of entries received from Officers for the period 1 April 2025 – 20 May 2026 are attached at Appendix B.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

6.1 Not to review the register. This would not be good governance.

7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including Social Value)	There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
Procurement	There are no procurement implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
Legal	The Monitoring Officer regularly reviews the register for Elected Members and Officers to ensure that Members and Officers comply with the Members’ Code of Conduct and the Officers’ Code of Conduct, respectively. The Registers may be inspected by the public during normal office opening hours.
Risk	Reports will positively impact on risk of failure to achieve

	good governance by reducing the likelihood of it occurring.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	No protected groups are affected by the decision.
Reducing Poverty	Not applicable.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable.
Data Protection	Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	Appendix A – Members’ Register of Gifts and Hospitality
2	Appendix B – Officers’ Register of Gifts and Hospitality
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin

Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk