

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Standards Advisory Committee</p> <p>24th October 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Register of Gifts & Hospitality</p>	

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the declarations of gifts and/or hospitality received by Members.

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the declarations of Gifts and/or hospitality received as reported in Appendix 1.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct for Members. For the purpose of the Code a Member includes the Mayor, elected Councillors and Co-opted Members of the Authority.
- 1.2 The Council's Code of Conduct (paragraph 3.6) requires a Member to register any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25 and the person from whom it is received.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Members continue to register receipt of any gift or hospitality without providing further clarification or notification to the Standards Advisory Committee.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Appendix 1 provides a copy of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality declared from 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018. A total of 29 declarations were made during this period.
- 3.2 The management of the Gifts and hospitality procedures has recently been subject to an internal audit. This has resulted in substantial assurance being recorded. The audit revealed concerns regarding late declarations, as 8 of the 28 declarations were registered beyond the 28-day time frames. Additionally, it was noted that there was an absence of declarations for gifts and/or hospitality refused.
- 3.3 All Members have been made aware of the requirement of such declarations during the initial induction programme. Furthermore, members are reminded of this on a regular basis, with the most recent reminder in the Members Bulletin, issue 475 – distributed on the 14th September 2018, which stated the requirement to make the declaration within 28 days of the receipt, acceptance or refusal.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011, section 27, provides the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and adopt a code of conduct setting out the conduct that is expected of Members when acting in that capacity. Section 28 of the 2011 Act, provides that the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council must be consistent with the seven Nolan principles. These are:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1. This is a noting report. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Act provides that the Council's Monitoring Officer must establish and maintain a register of interests of Members of the Authority.
- 7.2 Section 30 of the 2011 Act requires Members to register disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days. Otherwise it is for the Council to determine what is entered in the register of interests and as indicated in this report that includes gifts and hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Register of Gifts and Hospitality declared
– 1 Oct. 2017 to 30 September 2018

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A