

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Standards (Advisory) Committee</p> <p>Thursday, 25 April 2019</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Register of Members' Gifts and Hospitality</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion; Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the declarations of gifts and/or hospitality received from Members since the previous report to the Committee on 24 October 2018.

Standards (Advisory) Committee are receiving this report as it monitors compliance with the requirement in the Council Code of Conduct for Members to register and gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

Recommendations:

The Standards (Advisory) Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the declarations of Gifts and/or Hospitality offered 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 This is a noting report.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 Appendix 1 provides a copy of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality declared from 1st October 2018 to 31st March 2019. A total of 39 declarations were made during this period.

3.2 As reported in the last update to the Committee, 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 During this more recent period there has been an increase in the number of registered gifts and hospitality to 38 for the six month period (against 28 for the previous year). Of those, 10 declarations were submitted late which is a lower percentage than previously (8 out of 28). Four of the submitted hospitality offers were either declined or partly declined.

3.4 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.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 None arising from this report.

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

- Previous update report to Standards (Advisory) Committee 24 October 2018.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Register of Gifts and Hospitality declared – 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019.

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

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

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A