Non-Executive Report of the: **Standards Advisory Committee** **Wednesday, 18 September 2024**	TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	**Classification:** Open (Unrestricted)
Register of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality Quarterly Update	
Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services Patricia Attawia, Democratic Services Team Leader (Civic and Members)
Wards affected	All Wards

Executive Summary

This report updates the Committee on the Members' Register of Interests and declarations of gifts and hospitality submitted by Members since the previous report to the Committee on 26 June 2024.

The Standards Advisory Committee is receiving this report as it monitors compliance with the requirement in the Council Code of Conduct for Members to register and disclose their interests, and to declare any offer of a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

 Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and note the report

1.   **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1.1   The Council is required by statute 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   A Member is required under the Council's Code of Conduct (paragraph 50) to register and disclose their interests. This must be done within 28 days of becoming a member or being re-elected to office

1.3   Members must ensure their register of interests is kept up to date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.

1.4 A member is also required under the Council's Code of Conduct (paragraph 59) to register the offer of any gift or hospitality, whether accepted or not, with an estimated value of at least £25. They must include the person from whom it is received.

1.5 Repeated smaller gifts and hospitality which, when combined, would likely exceed £25 within any three-month period should also be declared.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 This is a noting report.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Register of Interests

3.1 In order to maintain an accurate register of Members' interests, Democratic Services send quarterly reminders to all Members via the Members' Bulletin to ensure that their declarations are up to date.

3.2 Two of these reminders (January and July), request that Members respond to officers to confirm that their current register of interests is correct.

3.3 The reminder in July was followed by an email to all Members asking them to confirm that their register of interests was up to date. At the time of writing, confirmation has been received from all but one Co-opted Member. Officers will continue to seek confirmation from this Member.

3.4 Fortnightly reports have been provided by Committee Services detailing Members' declarations made at meetings, which have been checked against each Member's register of interests to ensure it is accurate.

Gifts and Hospitality

3.5 The email sent to all Members in July also included a reminder to ensure any offers of gifts and hospitality were declared.

3.6 During the period 1 June to 31 August, one declaration was received. The details are set out in Table 1 below.

Name	Date received	Type	Accepted/ declined	Date declared	On time	Provided by	Estimated value	Description
Cllr Mufeedah Bustin	25.08.24	Gift	Accepted	26.08.24	Yes	All Points East – AEG Head Office, 240 Blackfriars Road, EE1 8NW	£200	Two tickets to All Points East on 25 August 2024

Table 1

3.7   The declaration was received within the 28 day deadline.

3.8   The timetable for reminders over the next 12 months is set out in Table 2 below.

Timetable	
Quarterly reminder – Members' Bulletin	October 2024
Quarterly reminder – Members' Bulletin and email requesting confirmation that registers are up to date and all gifts and hospitality have been declared.	January 2025
Quarterly reminder – Members' Bulletin	April 2025
Quarterly reminder – Members' Bulletin and email requesting confirmation that registers are up to date and all gifts and hospitality have been declared.	July 2025

Table 2

4.   EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1   None specific to 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.

6.   COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1   There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7.   COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1   Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires a local authority to adopt a code of conduct for Members and Co-opted Members. Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the code of conduct adopted by a local authority to include a requirement for Members and Co-opted Members to register and disclose pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests.

7.2   Paragraphs 50 and 59 (respectively) of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members require the disclosure of interests (both pecuniary and non-pecuniary) and the registration of gifts and hospitality, whether or not accepted.

7.3   This report demonstrates the Council's compliance with the above legislation and with the Council's own constitution.

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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices
- NONE

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:
Matthew Mannion, (Head of Democratic Services) ,