


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Standards Advisory Committee</p> <p>Thursday, 1 July 2021</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal Services and Interim Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Register of Gifts and Hospitality - Quarterly Update</p>	

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 provides an update on the declarations of gifts and/or hospitality received from Members since the previous report to the Committee on 22 April 2021.

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

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Review, comment on and note the report.

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 25) 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 There have been no declarations of Gifts and Hospitality received, from 1 April 2021 up to the date of publication of this agenda. If declarations are received after this date the details will be brought to the meeting.

The Impact of the Pandemic

- 3.2 As would be expected, the current COVID-19 pandemic has much reduced the number of events and occasions that Members might attend and so also reduced the number of related declarations of gifts and hospitality.

Register updates

- 3.3 Members were sent a reminder in June to ensure their registers of interests and declarations of gifts and hospitality were up to date. The reminder asked that they complete any outstanding declarations using the links provided or respond confirming they had nothing to declare at this time. Responses are still being received so a final update will be provided to the committee at the meeting. Any updates received will be recorded and published where appropriate.

- 3.4 The Committee will be provided with an update as to how many Members have responded to this reminder.

Next Steps

- 3.5 The next round of reminders on updating registers of interest and gifts declarations will be in the autumn and will be reported to an upcoming meeting as appropriate.

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 There are no direct 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.

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:

Or state N/A