

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Standards Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>Thursday, 10 February 2022</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p><b>Register of Gifts and Hospitality - Quarterly Update</b></p>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services Patricia Attawia, Democratic Services Team Leader (Civic and Members)
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);

### **Executive Summary**

This report updates the Committee on declarations of gifts and hospitality submitted by Members since the previous report to the committee on 25 November 2021.

Standards Advisory Committee is receiving this report as it monitors compliance with the requirement in the Council Code of Conduct for Members to register 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, comment 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 25) to register the offer of any gift or hospitality, whether accepted or not, with an estimated value of at least £25. They must also include the person from whom it is received.

### **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 This is a noting report.

### 3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

During the period 1 November to 31 January a total of 10 declarations were received, which is slightly less than the previous reporting period. Seven were not declared on time within the 28-day notification period, with two of these only late by a couple of days.

3.1 A copy of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for this period can be seen in the table below, with details of each declaration.

Name	Date offered	Type	Accepted/ Declined	Date declared	On time	Provided by	Estimated value	Description
<b>Cllr Asma Islam</b>	17/12/2021	Gift	Accepted donated to Speaker's Charity	12/01/2022	Yes	Embassy of the People's Republic of China	£27.00	Bottle of red wine – Chateau Lolande, Saint Julien 2016.
<b>Mayor John Biggs</b>	17/12/2021	Gift	Accepted	17/12/2021	Yes	Embassy of the People's Republic of China	£29.00	Chateau Lolande wine
<b>Cllr Asma Begum</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted	31/01/2022	No	Tower Hamlets Homes	£100.00	Speaker's Charity Ball ticket
<b>Cllr Dan Tomlinson</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted	24/01/2022	No	Cllr Zenith Rahman	£100.00	Ticket to Speaker's Charity Ball
<b>Cllr Eve McQuillan</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted	14/01/2022	No	East End Homes – Board member	£100.00	Speaker's Charity Ball Ticket
<b>Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted	09/01/2022	No	East End Homes	£100.00	Speaker's Charity Dinner (EEH directors table)
<b>Cllr Sabina Akhtar</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted	31/01/2022	No	London Tea Exchange	£100.00	Speaker's Charity Ball ticket
<b>Cllr Tarik Khan</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted	31/01/2022	No	Tower Hamlets Homes	£100.00	Speaker's Charity Ball ticket
<b>Cllr Victoria Obaze</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted	31/01/2022	No	London Tea Exchange	£100.00	Speaker's Charity Ball ticket
<b>Mayor John Biggs</b>	07/12/2021	Hospitality	Accepted £100 donation made to Speaker's Charity	13/12/2021	Yes	Office of the Speaker	£100.00	Speaker's Charity Ball

#### *The Impact of the Pandemic*

3.2 A number of offers of gifts and hospitality were made to Members around the Christmas period, which is not unexpected. Although there was a spike in Covid-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, many community events and festive celebrations still went ahead.

### *Register updates*

- 3.3 The regular request to Members to review and update their Registers of Interests was included in both the December and January issues of the Members' Bulletin, with a link to the online form. This form includes a field to declare any gifts and hospitality that may not have been declared individually.
- 3.4 Following the reminders, only one Member has not provided an update to their Register of Interests in the last 6 months, or confirmed that there are no changes. We will continue to chase for an update.

## **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.

- 5.2 None specific to this report.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to have a code of conduct and Section 28 of the same Act sets out the matters which the code must address. The Code of Conduct for members is part of the Constitution. Paragraph 25 requires all offers of gifts or hospitality worth over £25 to be declared within 28 days, whether or not accepted.
- 7.2 The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation and with the Constitution.
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- Gifts and Hospitality updates at each Standards Advisory Committee meeting

### **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