

Report of: **Director of Corporate Resources**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards Committee	27 th January 2009	6	

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

1. Synopsis

This report sets out gifts and hospitality declared by Members over the last six months.

2. Recommendation

That the Committee note and comment on the report as appropriate.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Members' Code of Conduct requires members to declare any gift or hospitality that they have received or declined in connection with their official duties with an estimated value of £25 or more. Members need to declare these gifts or hospitality within 28 days of becoming aware of them.
- 3.2 All gifts and hospitality are recorded on-line on the Council's intranet. The system provides a complete audit trail for each member's declarations.
- 3.3 At the June meeting of the Standards Committee it was agreed that officers would report twice a year setting out declarations made by members over a six month period.
- 3.4 Attached as Appendix A is a schedule containing details of all the gifts and hospitality declared by members from July to December 2008.

- 3.5 All declarations are reviewed by the Head of Democratic Services who is automatically notified by the electronic system when any gift or hospitality is declared.
- 3.6 45 declarations have been made by 12 members over the six month period. There have been no declarations from any Labour or Green Party members.
- 3.7 The largest number of declarations were as follows:
- Councillor Barbara Smith - 9 declarations
 Councillor James Kempton, Leader of the Council - 9 declarations
 Councillor Lucy Watt, Deputy Leader of the Council – 6 declarations
 Councillor Ruth Polling, Executive Member – 5 declarations
- 3.8 Of the 45 declarations:
- 4 were declined
 10 were donated to others
 31 were accepted.
- 3.9 The majority of the declarations accepted were either for dinners/lunches, invitations to events or tickets to various events.

5. Implications

Legal

These are contained in the report.

Financial

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

Background papers:

(Insert details here)

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

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 Director of Corporate Resources Date

Received by

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 Head of Democratic Services Date

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