

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Gifts and Hospitality 2015/16

Date: 9 September 2015

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1. Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the Standards Committee of gifts and hospitality received between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016.

2. Background

- 2.1 As members of the Standards Committee are aware the Council has a Gifts and Hospitality Code of Practice for Members and Officers to enable Members and Officers to decide on the circumstances and the manner in which gifts and hospitality may be accepted. Historically, each council department held it's own register of gifts and hospitality in which details of gifts and hospitality offered to Officers were registered. However, since 2012 the register has been held centrally in an electronic folder.
- 2.2 The register of gifts and hospitality for Members is also held in the electronic folder and is updated on the Monitoring Officer's behalf by Members' Services. Members will be aware that there is an ongoing requirement in the Code of Conduct to register any future gifts and hospitality.
- 2.3 During 2015/16, across the Council officers, 33 offers of gifts or hospitality were accepted and none were refused. Most common gifts were boxes of chocolates, and stationery. There were 7 instances of hospitality offered consisting of working lunches, an invite to a conference and tickets to sporting events. Service Managers have been asked to remind all staff of the need to register all gifts and hospitality offered, whether accepted or not. It is intended a further reminder is issued during the year.
- 2.4 The Mayor recorded 4 offers of gifts including bottles of wine, cider and whiskey. All were donated to the Mayor's Charity. Other elected Members recorded no offers of gifts or hospitality during 2015/16. Members were reminded in May 2016 of the need to notify Elections and Members' Services of the need to register gifts and hospitality offered and further reminders will be issued on an annual basis.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the Committee notes the report.

4. Financial Implications

None.

5. Appendices

None.

6. Background papers

None identified.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.