

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Gifts and Hospitality 2014/15

Date: 29 July 2015

Author: Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the Standards Committee of gifts and hospitality received between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015.

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. Following the recent election, Members have registered gifts and hospitality received in excess of £25.00 on their Register of Interests Form and there is an ongoing requirement in the Code of Conduct to register any future gifts and hospitality.
- 2.3 During 2014/15, across the Council officers, 49 offers of gifts or hospitality were accepted and 1 was refused. Most common gifts were boxes of chocolates, bottles of wine and stationery. There were 3 instances of hospitality offered – consisting of a working lunch and an invitation to Patchings Festival which were accepted and tickets to a football game which were refused.
- 2.4 The elected Members recorded 10 offers of gifts or hospitality. The gifts consisted of bottles of wine, a bottle of whiskey, a rose bush and a food hamper, the majority of which were donated to tombola/raffle for the Mayor's Charity. The hospitality comprised an invitation to the County Show which was accepted.

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.