

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: 11TH JANUARY 2018

Gifts and Hospitality: Guidance for Councillors

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Cabinet Member: Councillor Nick Oliver - Corporate Services & Cabinet Secretary

Purpose of report

To enable member of the Committee to consider and discuss the merits of adopting certain guidance relating to the receipt of gifts and hospitality

Recommendations

To consider the draft guidance attached to the agenda for this meeting at Appendix A in respect of the receipt of gifts and hospitality by members and to determine what recommendation, if any, should be made to Council regarding its adoption as part of the members code of conduct

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone” or “How” priority included in the draft NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2021

Key issues

Consideration of guidance to assist members in fulfilling their obligations under the members code of conduct in relation to the receipt of gifts and hospitality

Background

1. Under the current members code of conduct adopted by this authority, a member is required to declare or register the receipt of any gifts and hospitality by them which is attributable to their position as a member of the Council and which have a value of more than £50.
2. The circumstances under which such declarations or registrations must be made are not always clear. As a consequence draft guidance has been prepared to help clarify

what is required of a member in respect of this issue including what process needs to be followed to ensure that a member meets their obligations in full.

3. If members of this Committee consider that the guidance would be of assistance to members in this respect it would be open to the Committee to recommend to full Council that the guidance, as currently drafted or incorporating such amendments as the Committee consider appropriate, be adopted as an appendix to the current members code of conduct.

Implications

Policy	N/A
Finance and value for money	None significant
Legal	None significant
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	It is considered that the underpinning of the current obligations under the member code of conduct in respect of this matter will provide further assurance and transparency in relation to the operation of the ethical standards regime
Carbon reduction	N/A
Wards	All divisions

Background papers:

Council constitution including members code of conduct

Report sign off.

	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	LH
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Executive Director	KA
Portfolio Holder(s)	NO

Author and Contact Details

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