



Governance and Audit Committee

Item
13

13 December 2023

Report of	Monitoring Officer	Author	Andrew Weavers ☎ 282213
Title	Gifts and Hospitality – Review of Guidance for Councillors and Policy for Employees		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council provides guidance for councillors regarding any gifts and hospitality received in their role as a councillor. The Council has also adopted a policy for its employees in relation to any gifts and hospitality received. This report requests the Committee to approve updated guidance for councillors and policy for employees.

2. Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 To approve the attached Guidance for Councillors regarding Gifts and Hospitality and that it be included in the Constitution.
- 2.2 To approve the attached Gifts and Hospitality Policy for Employees.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Gifts and Hospitality Guidance for Councillors and the Policy for Employees were last considered by the Committee at its meeting on 22 November 2022.
- 3.2 The Council adopted the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct from 1 December 2022 which retained the requirement from the previous regime for transparency purposes of the registration and declaration of gifts and hospitality of the value of £50 and above as part of the Councillors Register of Interests. These are published on the Council's website as an integral part of the Committee Management Information System (CMIS). Guidance was produced for Councillors who may be offered gifts and/or hospitality and is included in the Constitution. The Guidance has been reviewed and updated and is attached at Appendix 1 of this report and the Committee is requested to approve the Guidance and to include it in the Constitution.
- 3.3 Council employees are required as part of their terms and conditions of employment to register any gifts and hospitality received in via an online register on the Council's intranet. This register is subject to regular review by the Monitoring Officer. In addition, the register is regularly audited by the Council's internal auditors. The employee's policy on gifts and hospitality is published on the Council's intranet and the opportunity has been taken to review and update the Policy which is attached at Appendix 2. The Committee is requested to approve the Policy.
- 3.4 The Monitoring Officer writes annually to both Councillors and Officers reminding them of their obligation regarding declaring and registering gifts and hospitality.

4. Strategic Plan References

- 4.1 The manner in which the Council governs its business is an underpinning mechanism in the Council's Strategic Plan priorities to set out the direction and future potential for our City.

5. Publicity Considerations

5.1 The Constitution is published on the Council's website

6. Financial, Equality, Diversity and Human Rights, Consultation, Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Environmental and Sustainability Implications

5.1 None.