

**Amendment of Members' Code of Conduct / Recording of Gifts and Hospitality**

**Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and Head of Law and Governance**

1. The Code of Conduct adopted by the Council requires members to register Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs), which are defined by regulations. The regulations do not include gifts and hospitality in the definition of DPIs and therefore, unlike the position under the previous standards regime, there is no legal requirement on members to record such matters.
2. Those authorities which have continued to make provision for recording gifts and hospitality have, for example, included provision in their Members' Code of Conduct for recording this in the Register of Members' Interests or alternatively, have made provision for members to notify such matters to the Monitoring Officer, who maintains a separate Record of Receipt of Gifts and Hospitality by Members.
3. In the interests of openness and transparency, it is proposed that members recommend Council to amend the Code of Conduct in order to reintroduce a provision for members and co-opted members to record offers of gifts and hospitality and that this provision comes into effect from the date of amendment.
4. Under the previous Code of Conduct, the requirement to register applied to gifts or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25. It is suggested that if members are minded to make provision for registration, it would be appropriate to revise this amount and that £50 would be a reasonable level.
5. It is also proposed that the opportunity is taken to clarify that the Code applies to members and co-opted members and that for these purposes, under the Localism Act 2011, "co-opted members" refers to members with voting rights.
6. Appropriate amendments to the Code of Conduct are shown as tracked changes in the Appendix to this report.

**7. Recommendation**

7.1 That Council be recommended to

- 7.1.1 amend the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in the Appendix to this report in order to include a requirement, to take effect from the date of amendment, for members and co-opted members to register in the Council's Register of Members' Interests, any offer of a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of £50 and over and to clarify that the reference in the Code to co-opted members is to members who are not elected members but are members of a committee or subcommittee with a right to vote and

7.1.2 authorise the Head of Law and Governance to publicise the amendment to the Code of Conduct on the Council's website.

**Background Papers**

There are no background papers to this report