

Somerset County Council

Standards Committee

– 2 February 2023

Register of Gifts and Hospitality

Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge, Monitoring Officer

Author: Andrew Melhuish (Service Manager Member Development & Support)

Contact Details: andrew.melhuish@somerset.gov.uk

1. Summary

- 1.1. Members requested that they receive a regular report on the gifts and hospitality received by members.
- 1.2. This report sets out details of the gifts and hospitality received during the period June to November 2022 (see Appendix A).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the gifts and hospitality received set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2. To determine the frequency of reporting gifts and hospitality received to the Standards Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1. This report sets out details of gifts and hospitality registered by Members and is the first report to the Standards Committee.
- 3.2. As set out in the Code of Conduct any gifts or hospitality either accepted or rejected by a member over the value of £50 must be declared within 28 days of receipt.

4. Options Considered and Consultations undertaken

- 4.1. To note the register of gifts and hospitality received over £50.

5. Implications

- 5.1. This report is for information and note.

- 5.2.** It is important that the Council has a formal mechanism for reviewing the gifts and hospitality register and the authority risks not discovering failings in the maintenance of the register. This could lead to not only reputational damage to the authority but personal action against individual members.
- 5.3.** The authority minimises the risks by regularly reviewing the Register and by providing regular advice and guidance to members on the proper upkeep and entry on the Register.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.** SCC Constitution and Code of Conduct

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author