

Public Agenda Pack



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 October 2024

10.00 am

**John Meikle Room, The Deane House,
Belvedere Road, Taunton TA1 1HE**

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA

To: The members of the Standards Committee

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Agenda Item 9 Standards Committee Gifts and Hospitality (Pages 3 - 8)

To provide a report on the gifts and hospitality received by members during the period March 2024 to August 2024.

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Standards Committee
14 October 2024

Register of Gifts and Hospitality

Lead Officer: David Clark, Monitoring Officer

Author: Scott Wooldridge, Head of Governance & Democratic Services and Steve Taylor, Committee Manager, Democratic Services

Contact Details: claire.dicken@somerset.gov.uk

1. Summary

- 1.1.** The Standards Committee requested that it receives a six monthly 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 March 2024 to August 2024 (see Appendix A).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** To note the gifts and hospitality received set out in Appendix A and provide any comments to the Monitoring Officer.

3. Background

- 3.1.** This report sets out details of gifts and hospitality registered by Somerset Councillors during the period from March 2024 to August 2024.
- 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.
- 3.3.** Somerset Council adopted the LGA Model Code of Conduct following a decision of Full Council in February 2023 in readiness for the new Council from April 2023.
- 3.4.** The Model Code of Conduct has set the value of gifts and hospitality either accepted or declined by councillors at £50.

4. Options Considered and Consultations undertaken

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

5. Implications

- 5.1.** 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.
- 5.2.** 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.** Somerset Council Constitution and Code of Conduct.

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

MEMBERS' GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER SUMMARY – MARCH 2024 TO AUGUST 2024

Extract from the Members Code of Conduct within the Council's Constitution:

“3. **Receipts of gifts and hospitality**

3.1 (1) *You must, within 28 days of receipt, notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any gift, benefit or hospitality with a value in excess of £50 which you have accepted or rejected as a member from any person or body other than the Council.*

(2) The Monitoring Officer will place your notification on a public register of gifts and hospitality.”

Date of gift /hospitality	Members name	Detail of declaration
26 March 2024	Cllr Richard Wilkins	Name of Donor: Great Western Railways (GWR) Details: Travel, Hotel and Dinner to attend the GWR Strategic Partners Networking Dinner at the House of Lords Value: £726.50
7 May 2024	Cllr Ros Wyke	Name of Donor: Hinkley Point C Details: Supper hosting Dutch delegates Value: £35
21 May 2024	Cllr John Wood-Cookman	The King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace Value: unknown
31 May 2024	Cllr Liz Leyshon	Name of Donor: None given, a resident in Frome Details: Flowers Value: under £20

Register maintained by the Monitoring Officer, Democratic Service Team, Somerset County Council. Tel: 01823 357628

Email: democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk

18 June 2024	Cllr Liz Leyshon	Name of Donor: None given, a resident in Street Details: Greggs Voucher & Chocolates Value: £24
17 - 19 June 2024	Cllr Michael Caswell	Name of Donor: Somerset Council Details: Rail fare, Hotel Accommodation and Food. To attend the Nuleaf national meeting in Llandudno and visit to Trows Nuclear Power Station. For and on behalf of Somerset Council as I am their Elected representative on Nuleaf and also the Nuleaf Vice Chairman.
25 June 2024	Cllr Simon Coles	Name of Donor: two of the Directors of Red One Ltd, Dr Sian George and Robin Details: on the evening of 25th June I was invited to a one course evening meal at a local (Taunton) Italian restaurant Value: approx. cost of my meal was £15.00p no alcohol was consumed.
28 June 2024	Cllr Ros Wyke	Name of Donor: Glastonbury Festival Details: Ticket and lunch Value: £355 plus £30
28 June 2024	Cllr Richard Wilkins	Name of Donor: Glastonbury Festival Details: Ticket and lunch Value: £355 plus £30

Appendix A

1 July 2024	Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts	Name of Donor: Citizens Somerset Return train ticket at the value of £69.15 to travel to Citizens UK General Assembly in London
20 August 2024	Cllr Tom Deakin	Name of Donor: Taunton Flower Show Details: 2 Tickets Value: Approximately £40

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