

Register of Gifts and Hospitality

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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 August 2023 to February 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 August 2023 to February 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