



STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 23RD NOVEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Standards Committee of the gifts and hospitality declared by elected Members for the period August 2018 to October 2023.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of gifts and hospitality declared by elected Members for the period August 2018 to October 2023 .

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Standards Committee are asked to note the information contained in this report.
- 3.2 Going forward, the Standards Committee will receive an annual report on gifts and hospitality received or declined by members.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Authority acting through this Committee has an obligation to maintain high standards and probity and conduct throughout the Council and the Community Councils within the County Borough area.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Paragraph 17 of the code of conduct for members requires members within 28 days of the date of receipt notify the monitoring officer of the existence and nature of any gifts, hospitality, material benefits or advantage received or offered to them and declined where the value of the item or benefit exceeds £25. The paragraph applies equally to any gift accepted by the member on behalf of the Council.
- 5.2 Paragraph 9(b) of the code of conduct for members states that members must avoid accepting from anyone gifts, hospitality (other than official hospitality, such as a civic reception or a working lunch authorised by the Council), material benefits or

services for the member or any person which might place the member, or reasonably appear to place the member under an improper obligation.

5.3 As part of the drive to strengthen governance arrangements back in 2013, the informal arrangements of reporting gifts and hospitality declared by elected Members were replaced by the presentation of a quarterly report to the Standards Committee. The last report was presented in 2018. In more recent years, in the main as a result of the impact of the Covid pandemic, quarterly reports have proved unnecessary as there have been very few or no gifts or hospitality declared.

5.4 The Standards Committee last received a report on Members Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality at the meeting held on the 13th September 2018 which related to declarations for the period August 2017 to August 2018.

5.5 The Appendix attached lists the gifts and hospitality as declared by elected Members for the period August 2018 to October 2023.

5.6 It is proposed that the Standards Committee will receive an annual report on gifts and hospitality received or declined by members going forward.

5.7 **Conclusion**

The Standards Committee are asked to not the content of this report.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions contained in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 As this report is for information only there is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment to be completed.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 Any consultation responses have been reflected within the body of the report.

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Act 1972

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Consultees: Christina HARRY, Chief Executive
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Ed Edmunds Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services AND Monitoring Officer
Cllr Sean Morgan, Leader of Council
Cllr Lindsay Whittle, Leader of Plaid Cymru
Cllr Nigel Dix, Leader of the Independent Group

Appendix 1

Declaration Made By	Date	Gift Received & Cost
Cllr. E. Aldworth	18 th July, 2018	<p>At a presentation evening when Cllr. Aldworth resigned as governor for Tyn-Y-Wern primary school, she received</p> <p>I received a Bouquet of flowers A Marks and Spencer gift card for £50</p> <p>A glass engraved plaque Card</p>
Cllr. P. Marsden	16 th January, 2020	<p>Attended the South Wales Argus Schools and Education Awards, 2020 at the Celtic Manor. As part of the evening a meal was provided. The Local Authority paid for the tickets at a cost of £30.00</p>
Cllr. B. Jones	16 th January, 2020	<p>Attended the South Wales Argus Schools and Education Awards, 2020 at the Celtic Manor. As part of the evening a meal was provided. The Local Authority paid for the tickets at a cost of £30.00</p>
Cllr. K. Etheridge	24 th May 2022	<p>Complimentary tickets and two nights stay from the Local Government Association to attend the Local Government Association Conference</p>
Cllr. J. Simmonds	30 th June, 2023	<p>1 x bottle of liquor 2 x bars or chocolate 1 x coffee table book featuring the town of Ludwigsburg 1 x pack of instant coffee 1 x pack of hot chocolate 1 x tea towel 1 x presentation box 1x biro</p> <p>Total Value £30.00</p>

Cllr. S. Morgan	22 nd June, 2023	A bottle of liquor. Total Value £25.00
Cllr. S. Morgan	20 th July, 2023	Attending an event at the ICC Wales and will receive a meal. Total Value £50.00

Background papers

[Standards Committee Report – Members Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality
September 2017 to August 2018](#)