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| Committee: | Standards Committee | Agenda Item No.: | 16. |
| Date: | 10 th October 2012 | Category | * |
| Subject: | Review of Gifts and Hospitality Registers. | Status | Open |
| Report by: | Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer. | | |
| Other Officers involved: | Legal Support Officer | | |
| Director | Chief Executive Officer | | |
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Not applicable. | | |

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure
CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services

ENVIRONMENT – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning.

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation.

The appropriate use of the Gifts and Hospitality Registers contributes to ensuring that the Corporate Aims remain the focus of the Council's work rather than the behaviour of officers and members.

TARGETS

The subject matter does not contribute to any targets specified in the Corporate Plan.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The report does not relate to the expenditure of money.

THE REPORT

Once a year the Gifts and Hospitality Registers of the Council are checked by the Monitoring Officer and the Legal Support Officer to ensure that they are being used and used correctly and that they have the correct guidance on the Registers.

This year sees some changes within departments. For example this will be the last year that the Environmental Health Services Gifts and Hospitality Register

will be examined by Bolsover. As this is now a North East Derbyshire District Council department, it will be for that Council to carry out the review in future.

In addition, there are future changes. Members have not in recent years had a Register but have included relevant declarations on their Register of Interests forms. With the changes on the 1st July, this has now gone and it has been necessary to establish a Register for members. This is kept by the CEO's PA. Members were informed of the change at Council in July, but the Committee is requested to consider whether any further briefing should be sent generally to members.

The results of the review are contained on the attached spreadsheet. Where appropriate this includes comment as to the future changes. There has been no great use of the Registers.

In relation to the question asked about the travelling entry in Housing, I have asked what this was about. As a result of a successful project for which external funding had been received, the Electrical Safety Council, the funder, wanted to use this as an example of good practice at their annual conference. They asked the Head of Housing to give a presentation and paid his travel costs. It was not strictly gift and hospitality therefore but it was considered to be transparent to include it in an open Register.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The outcome of the review as shown on the spreadsheet attached.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial : None

Legal : It is good governance to check these registers once a year to ensure they exist and are being used appropriately.

Human Resources : None

RECOMMENDATION(S) that

(1) Members consider the outcome of the review.

(2) Members consider whether a further briefing or reminder should be sent to all Members.

ATTACHMENT: **Y – Review of Gifts and Hospitality**

FILE REFERENCE: **None**

SOURCE DOCUMENT: ***Gifts and Hospitality Registers***