

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Committee: | The Standards Committee |
| Date: | 6 November 2023 |
| Title: | The Gifts and Hospitality register for Members |
| Author: | Propriety and Elections Manager |
| Purpose: | For information |

Background

1. This report is presented to the Committee as part of its work of monitoring standards within the Council.
2. Cyngor Gwynedd's Code of Conduct for Members makes it compulsory for members to register any offer of a gift, hospitality material benefit or advantage above the value of £25. They must register these offers whether accepted or not. The Committee was informed on 23/2/23 that the majority of authorities also set the threshold for registering offers at £25 but that a proposal had been made to consider setting an equal level between authorities at national level on a voluntary basis. We continue to await the outcome of those discussions.
3. A form is available for registering offers and a copy is attached as Appendix 1.

The Protocol

4. The Council adopted a Protocol for Members on Gifts and Hospitality in 2004. Following the publication of a new Code of Conduct and Guidelines by the Ombudsman the Standards Committee reviewed the Protocol and presented its recommendations to the Council. The Council adopted the current Protocol, incorporating the Committee's suggested amendments on 2 May 2013. A copy of the Protocol is attached as Appendix 2.

The Register

5. This Committee has in past discussed whether the register should be published on the Council's website. It was decided then (2004) that it should not be. By now, the Council must publish its register of Members' Interests on the website, but no such obligation exists in respect of the register of Gifts and Hospitality.

Analysis

6. The registrations on the current register were analysed and the results are set out in the table below:

| Date of Form | Gift/Hospitality | Accepted/refused | Value |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/01/23 | Flowers and prosecco from someone in my ward I had helped with a planning application | Accepted | Probably more than £25 |
| 04/09/23 | M&S tokens – as thanks for help with a planning application | Refused | Not noted |

Recommendation

7. The Committee is asked to:

(a) note and accept the report

(b) offer any observations on the report