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| REPORT TO: | ETHICS COMMITTEE 8 February 2023 |
| SUBJECT: | MEMBER GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY |
| LEAD OFFICER: | Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer |
| WARDS: | ALL |
| FINANCIAL IMPACT: | |
| No financial implications are related to this report or recommendations. The administration of the gifts and hospitality process is managed within Democratic Services and operates within existing budgets. | |
| 1. RECOMMENDATIONS for the committee: 1.1. To note the requirements on Members with regards to declaring Gifts and Hospitality. 1.2. To note any Gifts and Hospitality declarations since 13 September 2022 (when Gifts & Hospitality report was last published). | |

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. Members must comply with the Members' Code of Conduct including the protocol around declaring gifts and hospitality. This report (Appendix 1) gives the committee the details of gifts and hospitality declared by Members (Executive Mayor and Councillors) since the 13 September 2022 (following publication date of the previous Ethics Committee meeting).

3. DETAIL

- 3.1. As outlined in the Member Code of Conduct, Members agree to adhere to the following with regards to declaring gifts and hospitality:
- Members do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on their part to show favor from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, license or other significant advantage.
 - Members register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 or multiple gifts and/or instances of hospitality with a cumulative value of £50 or more when received from a single donor within a rolling twelve-month period within 28 days of its receipt.

- Register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that they may have been offered but have refused to accept.
- 3.2. In terms of submitting gift and hospitality declarations, Members notify the Monitoring Officer (or the Head of Democratic Services acting on behalf of the Monitoring Officer) via email - with the Member's online Register of Interests (on the London Borough of Croydon website) subsequently updated.
- 3.3. All Members of the Council in September 2022 were reminded via a Members Newsletter of the gift and hospitality declaration requirements and submission process (also in the edition was declaration at meetings, voting dispensations, and future member training sessions). A reminder is scheduled to be sent in February 2023.
- 3.4. Committee members are asked to review and note the gifts & hospitality declarations made as detailed in Appendix 1.

4. **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1. The declarations are sent directly from the relevant member, with any clarification sought by Democratic Services on behalf of the Monitoring Officer and subject to review by the Ethics Committee.

5. **FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1. The implementation of the recommendations contained in this report shall be contained within existing budgets.

6. **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1. The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer that the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to adopt a Members Code of Conduct and to maintain a register of members' interests. Croydon's Members' Code of Conduct details the Member compliance requirements around declaring gifts and hospitality. (Approved by Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer).

7. **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 7.1. There are no direct equalities impact consequences arising from the contents of this report.

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| CONTACT OFFICER: | Adrian May Interim Head of Democratic Services |
| APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT: | Appendix 1 Gift & Hospitality Declarations. |
| BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: | None |