

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
11/12/2023

Subject

GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Purpose:

To note the Councils approach in relation to gifts and hospitality

Recommendations / key decisions required:

None

Reasons:

The latest guidance issued by Welsh Government recommends that Standards Committees regularly review their authority's approach to gifts and hospitality.

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not applicable

Directorate: Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Designations:

Head of Administration
and Law

Legal Services Manager

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11/12/2023

GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Paragraph 17 of the Members Code of Conduct states

You must, within 28 days of receiving any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage above a value of £25, provide written notification to your authority's Monitoring Officer or in relation to a community council, to your authority's proper officer of the existence and nature of that gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage.

Paragraph 5.10 of the Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance for Principal Councils in Wales – supporting provisions within the Local Government Act 2000, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 issued by Welsh Government states that Standards Committees should undertake a

“regular review of the Council’s approach on gifts and hospitality and the use of thresholds. These matters should also be addressed in the committee’s annual report.”

A Councillor’s declaration is available for public scrutiny on the Councils website and can be accessed by navigating to the ‘Your Councillors’ webpage, clicking on the relevant Councillor and then clicking on the gifts and hospitality tab.

The £25 threshold is becoming the standard across Wales with all Councils having adopted or being in the process of adopting that standard.

A spreadsheet showing the total number of declarations made since the local government elections in May 2022 is attached to this report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	No
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: *Linda Rees-Jones*

Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: *Linda Rees-Jones*

Head of Administration and Law

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	N/A
Scrutiny Committee	N/A
Date the report was considered:-	N/A
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	
Not Applicable	

2. Local Member(s)

Not Applicable

3. Community / Town Council

Not Applicable

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not Applicable

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	Not applicable
NO	

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Department File	DPSC-216	County Hall Carmarthen

