

GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY PROTOCOL

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

To consider the adoption of a specific protocol outlining Members' obligations concerning gifts and hospitality.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- (a) the proposed inclusion of a protocol for gifts and hospitality is included in the Constitution, subject to any comments/amendments by the Standards Committee, for the approval of Council.**

Considerations

1. The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic must keep an up to date register of any gifts and hospitality elected members may receive in the course of their work. There is currently not an easily accessible procedure for Members to follow in these circumstances.
2. It is proposed, in line with other local authorities, that a specific protocol for gifts and hospitality is published with the Constitution.
3. To date, the Constitutional Review Working Group has considered the proposed protocol. The Standards Committee is requested to consider any standards and ethics issues which might apply, and make any necessary amendments. Following on from this, Cabinet will consider the protocol, and then Council later in May 2009, as part of a much wider review of the Council's Constitution. It is possible that, as the review progresses, the Standards Committee might be required to re-consider some of the protocols and policies that it has contributed to in the past, and to look at new ones.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1 – Proposed new protocol for gifts and hospitality.