

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

30 NOVEMBER 2021

Report Title	MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY			
Purpose of Report	The Audit and Standards Committee is asked to consider the addition of a reference to ‘Gifts and Hospitality’ in the Members Code of Conduct, as recommended by the Constitution Working Group and recommend to Council accordingly.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RECOMMENDS to Council that the Code of Conduct be amended to include the reference to Gifts and Hospitality as set out in this report.			
Consultation and Feedback	The Constitution Working Group has considered this issue and agreed the recommended addition to the Code of Conduct for submission to Council.			
Report Author	Stephen Taylor, Interim Monitoring Officer Email: Stephen.Taylor@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	Council can agree the recommendation or amend the recommendation. It can also ask the Constitution Working Group to re-consider this issue.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	None			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	Yes	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On the 21st October 2021, Council considered a report from the interim Monitoring Officer relating to a review of the Constitution. For background, the report can be accessed [here](#).
- 1.2 One of the matters referred to in the report related to the addition of a reference to ‘Gifts and Hospitality’ in the Members Code of Conduct and Council noted that the Audit and Standards Committee will be asked to consider this at its next meeting.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 When the Code of Conduct was last reviewed, specific provision for gifts and hospitality were not included. Therefore, the Constitution Working Group has recommended that the Code of Conduct should be amended with the addition of the following text at new Paragraph:

3.11 *Members will 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 favour 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, licence or other significant advantage.*

3.11.1 *Members will register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.*

3.11.2 *Members will register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that they have been offered but have refused to accept.*

2.2 The reason why this matter has come before this Committee is that under the Constitution, the Audit and Standards Committee are:

- To be responsible, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, for all matters relating to the Members Code of Conduct,
- To advise the Council on any amendment or revision of the Code.

2.3 On that basis, the Audit and Standards Committee are asked to consider this addition to the Members Code of Conduct and recommend to Council accordingly.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this decision.

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3.2 Legal Implications

The council has a duty under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and to adopt a Code of Conduct that is consistent with the Nolan Principles. The insertion of this additional provision will provide further guidance to members on dealing with gifts and hospitality.

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3.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

3.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.