

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Report to: | Standards Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 18 September 2017 |
| Subject: | Review of Gifts and Hospitality Protocol |
| Report of: | Lin O'Brien, Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Corporate Lead: | Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer |
| Number of Appendices: | One. |

Executive Summary:

To put forward proposals for a review of the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Councillors in accordance with the Committee's agreed programme.

Recommendation:

That the whole Committee meet as a Working Group, as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report, to review the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Councillors.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Councillors is reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose in the current conduct regime.

Resource Implications:

Officer and Member resources will be required to undertake the review.

Legal Implications:

None specifically in relation to this report.

Risk Management Implications:

None in relation to this report.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The review will be undertaken and any amendments required made to the Protocol.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 At the meeting of the Standards Committee on 12 October 2015 Members adopted a programme for the review and revision of the Council's Protocols.

1.2 The Protocols reviewed to date are:

- The Licensing System, Protocol and Procedures;
- Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process; and
- Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.

1.3 The last Protocol for review is the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Councillors. A copy of the current version of the Protocol, adopted in May 2006, is attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 METHODOLOGY AND TIMETABLE FOR REVIEW OF THE GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY PROTOCOL FOR COUNCILLORS

2.1 The review of the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations went well and as such it is suggested that the same process be followed for the review of the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Councillors. It is therefore suggested that, in the first instance, the Committee meet as a Working Group and talk to Members to ascertain their views on the effectiveness of the Protocol and what, if any, changes would improve it.

2.2 Following the review of the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Councillors, to be completed by the beginning of 2018, it is suggested that the Committee then consider a review of the Code of Conduct, including the complaints and investigation process, to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets the duty under the Localism Act to promote and maintain high standards of Councillor Conduct. The new Code will have been in place in excess of five years and it would be useful to gain the views of both longstanding and more recently elected Members on its effectiveness.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 None.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation will be undertaken to review the Protocol.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 None.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 None.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 None.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 None.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 Contained within the report.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: 1 – Current Version of the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for Councillors.