

Standards Committee

15 June 2009

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Report Title	REVIEW OF REGISTERS OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND GIFTS & HOSPITALITY
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Date of Meeting:	15 June 2009
Directorate:	Borough Solicitor
Ward(s)	All

1. Summary

To report on the compilation of this year's Register of Declarations of Interest and the ongoing Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

2. Recommendations

1. That the report be noted and that the Monitoring Officer take any action deemed appropriate to ensure Councillors complete the Declarations of Interest Register.
2. That the Monitoring Officer sends a briefing to all Members outlining their obligations to the Register of Interests and to declare Gifts and Hospitality.

3. Report Background

- 3.1 Councillors are required under the Local Government Act 2000 to complete an annual Declaration of Interests (copy form attached as Appendix A) and to amend it during the year within twenty eight days of becoming aware of any change. This year's letters and forms were sent to all Councillors the week beginning 6 April with the intention that the Register should be completed by Annual Council on 21 May 2009. Councillors have been reminded of the need complete their declarations during week beginning 27 April and again during week beginning 18 May.
- 3.2 As of the end of 5 June five declarations remain outstanding. The Borough Solicitor was not satisfied by one return and this has now been resubmitted by the Councillor concerned.
- 3.3 In respect of Gifts & Hospitality (of over a perceived value of £25) there were seventeen registrations between 1 April and 31 March 2009, sixteen from Councillors covering twenty one instances and one from an Officer. Ten different Councillors registered with fifteen

instances of tickets to the Royal and Derngate and the balance being primarily tickets/hospitality given by Northamptonshire Cricket Club, Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club or Northampton Town Football Club.

3.4 Whilst the numbers of registrations for Gifts & Hospitality may seem low, there is no evidence to suggest that instances are not being registered. During the last few weeks, during the Register of Interests renewals, a number of Councillors not having already made registrations have been reminded of this but it has not led to further instances being declared.

3.5 Elsewhere on this agenda is an item about the Committee's Newsletter. This has been used as a vehicle in the past for reminding Councillors about responsibilities in respect of both Registers and it is proposed that it is used again for this purpose.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

None.

4.2 Legal

None at this time.

4.3 Other Implications

None.

5. Background Papers

None.

Report Author and Title: F McGown, Democratic Services manager

Telephone and Email: 01604 837101 – fmcgtown@northampton.gov.uk