

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Agenda Item:

Date: 15 July 2009

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REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Review of Register of Members' Interests and Registration of Gifts and Hospitality.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the report.
- 2.2 The Members' Code of Conduct adopted in 2007 requires members to register the receipt of a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25. The Code also requires a member to declare a personal, or as the case may be, prejudicial interest in any business where the interests of the donor of such a gift or hospitality are affected.
- 2.3 The Code currently does not require members to register gifts or hospitality offered, though not accepted, nor does it require the member to place a value on the gift or hospitality.
- 2.4 There are proposals, which are believed to be under consideration by the Government, to increase the threshold value perhaps to £100. If this were to happen the result would be most if not all of the gifts and hospitality received by Stevenage Members would not be declarable.
- 2.5 The Chairman of the Standards Committee undertakes a review of the Register of Members' Interests and Registration of Gifts and Hospitality on an annual basis. His report for those registers up to October 2008, which included the annual renewal in summer 2008, is appended to this report.

5 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

APPENDICES

- Stevenage Borough Council Standards Committee Review of Register of Members' Interests and Registration of Gifts and Hospitality October 2008 - Stewart Gillies.