

Joint Standards Committee

13 February 2019

Report of the Legal Services Manager (Corporate Governance)

Update on Guidance on Civic Gifts and Hospitality

Summary

- 1) This report provides an update on the Guidance on Civic Gifts and Hospitality and seeks Members' views on proposed guidance.

Background

- 2) At the meeting of the Committee held on 18 April 2018 Members considered current guidance contained within the Civic Guide in respect of code of conduct issues together with guidance issued by the National Association of Civic Officers in respect of the acceptance of gifts and hospitality. A draft guidance document was produced and former Lord Mayors were consulted for comments on the draft document.

- 3) The draft guidance was considered further at the meeting of the Committee which was held on 5 September 2018. A discussion took place concerning one of the paragraphs in the draft which read:

“The acceptance of more substantial hospitality when not linked to one of the traditional functions is more likely to be acceptable where it is clearly linked to the promotion of the City and where the attendance of a member of the Civic party has been requested by the Leader, Council Officers or a key partner of the Council.”

- 4) Members agreed that the wording underlined in the paragraph above be replaced by wording which would enable the Lord Mayor to take a decision based on impartial advice from an appropriate officer of the Council.

- 5) The paragraph was amended and the Lord Mayor and former Lord Mayor's have been consulted on the following:

“The acceptance of more substantial hospitality when not linked to one of the traditional functions is more likely to be acceptable where

it is clearly linked to the promotion of the City. Where the attendance of a member of the Civic party has been requested in such circumstances, then the decision as to whether to accept such hospitality should be made based on impartial guidance from an appropriate officer of the Council.”

- 6) Any feedback from the Lord Mayors will be available at the Joint Standards Committee meeting on 13 February 2019.

Recommendations

- 7) Members are recommended to consider the draft guidance and the comments from the Lord Mayors and approve guidance for inclusion within the Civic guide.

Reason: To ensure that members of the Civic party are supported to make proper decisions about accepting gifts and hospitality.

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Report Approved

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Date 5.2.19

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

Annex 1- draft guidance on civic gifts and hospitality

Background Papers: None