

By: Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Standards Committee – 18 March 2010

Subject: Members' Register of Interests, Gifts and Hospitality

Summary: To agree the most appropriate method of reviewing the Members' Register of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality submissions.

Unrestricted

Background

1. At its meeting in November 2008, the Standards Committee agreed that there should be a standing item each year to review the Register of Members' Interests, Gifts and Hospitality, starting in the new Council term.
2. Following the County Council elections in June, all Members completed their Register of Interests, which are published on KCC's website. Written guidance to Members on the nature of their interests is provided by the Monitoring Officer and additional advice is provided on request. In addition, the training provided by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on the Code of Conduct and ethical standards reinforces to Members the importance of (a) keeping their registered interests up to date (i.e. within 28 days of any change) and (b) always declaring the existence of personal and prejudicial interests at meetings where there is a relevant item on the agenda. All 84 Members have attended this training and it is considered that the overall process for registering and declaring interests works well. Members are also encouraged to properly register any gifts or hospitality they may receive in accordance with the Code of Conduct. All such declarations are also published on KCC's website.
3. At its meeting on 20 November 2009, the Committee agreed that the Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership be asked to arrange for a review to take place involving at least two of the three independent Members of the Committee. This review is outstanding and the Committee's instructions are requested.

Recommendation:

4. The Committee is invited to determine the way forward in relation to the review of Members' Registers of Interests.

Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

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