

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 26TH FEBRUARY, 2020

REFERENCE FROM STANDARDS COMMITTEE: 23RD JANUARY, 2020

“ LOCAL AUTHORITY’S REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY
(MO/HLDS) –

Under the Local Government Act 2000 section 51 provided that the mandatory provisions in the (then) New Model Members’ Code of Conduct be adopted within six months of 1st April, 2008 by all County, County Borough and Town and Community Councils in Wales. In addition to this the Standards Committee also requested that the Council set a value for the registration of any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage in accordance with the Model Code of Conduct. The Vale of Glamorgan Council on 23rd April, 2008 (Minute No. 1049 refers) resolved that the following values for the registration of any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage in accordance with paragraph 17 of the Code of Conduct be set to take effect from 5th May, 2008 – gifts £50 and hospitality £25.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life Guidance to Local Government in England dated January 2019, recommended:

"Local Authorities should be required to establish a Register of Gifts and Hospitality, with Councillors required to record any gifts and hospitality received over a value of £50 or totalling £100 over a year from a single source. The requirement should be included in an updated Model Code of Conduct."

Having regard to the above guidance of January 2019 the Standards Committee was therefore requested to consider an amendment to the Council’s Gifts and Hospitality Policy as follows:

That the following values for the registration of any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage be:

- Gifts, material benefits or advantages – £50.00 or totalling £100.00 over a year from a single source;
- Hospitality – £25.00 or totalling £100.00 over a year from a single source.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Standards Committee recommend to Full Council that the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s threshold for registering gifts, material benefits or advantages and hospitality be amended to read as follows:

Gifts, material benefits or advantages - £50.00 or totalling £100.00 over a year from a single source;

Hospitality - £25.00 or totalling £100.00 over a year from a single source.

(2) T H A T all Town and Community Councils within the Vale of Glamorgan be recommended to adopt the same as outlined in Resolution (1) above for the registration of gifts, hospitality, material benefit or advantage within their Councils.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To seek Council approval having regard to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's recommendation in their guidance entitled Local Government Ethical Standards: A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life dated January 2019.

(2) To inform Town and Community Councils of the views of the Standards Committee and to raise the profile of standards in public life having regard to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's recommendation in their guidance entitled Local Government Ethical Standards: A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life dated January 2019."