



Subject:	NI Local Government Code of Conduct – Acceptance and Registration of Gifts and Hospitality
Date:	21st June, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To consider the limit to be set for the receipt of any gift, hospitality, material benefit or service above which must be notified to the Chief Executive.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is asked to agree that any gift, hospitality, material benefit or service received above the value of £50 be reported to the Chief Executive and recorded in the appropriate Register.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>

Members should be aware that the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors at paragraph 4.20 - Acceptance and registration of gifts and hospitality - states:

*You must:*

- a) in accordance with any standing orders of your council and within 28 days of receipt of any gift, hospitality, material benefit or service, which is above a value specified in a resolution of your council, provide written notification to your chief executive of the existence and nature of that gift, hospitality, material benefit or service;*
- b) not accept from anyone gifts, hospitality, material benefits or services for yourself or any other person, which might place you, or reasonably appear to place you, under an improper obligation; and*
- c) discourage gifts and offers of hospitality to any family members which might place you, or reasonably appear to place you, under an improper obligation.*

The current value above which the gifts and hospitality etc. are reported to the Chief Executive is £50 and it is proposed that this limit is maintained for the next Council term.

As with declarations of interest, it is the responsibility of the Councillor to report the receipt of such gifts. However, if a Member has any queries or concerns, advice can be sought from Legal Services/Democratic Services on whether or not it would be appropriate to report any gifts received.

Financial & Resource Implications

None associated with this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

**4.0 Appendices**

None.