



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Standards Committee

On 8th October 2007

Report Title: Developments since adoption of revised Members Code of Conduct

Forward Plan reference number:

Report of: **Monitoring Officer**

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non Key Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Standards Committee of developments since the adoption of the revised Members Code of Conduct at the AGM of 21 May 2007

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to note the report and agree the proposal to amend the register of gifts and hospitalities in the light of Standards Board advice and

3.2 Consider whether they wish to send members to attend Committee meetings of the Council to monitor how the new code is being implemented.

Report Authorised by: **John Suddaby, Monitoring Officer**

Contact Officer: **John Suddaby – Monitoring Officer**

4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 There are no financial implications

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

The legal implications are included in the body of the report

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 Guidance on the revised Code of Conduct issued by the Standards Board for England

6.2 [Also list reasons for exemption or confidentiality (if applicable)]

7. Report

Members are asked to note the following developments that have occurred since the adoption of the revised Members Code of Conduct in May 2007:

1. The statement of declaring personal interests read out at the start of all formal council meetings has been revised to bring it into line with the revised code. An example of the new statement is in Appendix 1 to this report.

2. The Standards Board for England has confirmed that gifts or hospitality worth £25 or over that a member has received in connection with their official duties, and the source of the gift or hospitality must be registered under the revised code and registered within 28 days of receipt. However the Board has also confirmed that any gifts or hospitality received more than 28 days before the Council adopted the revised code (effective from 22 May 2007) do not need to be placed on the members register of interests. These previous items will however be retained on the register of gifts and hospitality maintained by the Monitoring officer under the old Code. Agreement is sought to remove all gifts or hospitalities received by Members before 25 April 2007 from the register kept under the revised code and make similar amendments to the version placed on the Council website. It is suggested that the Monitoring Officer write to Members to explain this change.

3. It has been suggested that Members of the Standards Committee may wish to consider observing Council Committees to gain insight into the issues raised by day to day committee decision-making in the context of the revised code of conduct and to carry out proactively their role in supporting the good ethical governance of the authority. If Standards Committee feel that this is appropriate then proposals for which committee meetings and volunteers from Standards Committee to attend and report back will be sought.

4. The Standards Board for England publishes a regular bulletin on its website www.standardsboard.co.uk . Enclosed at Appendix 2 to this report are copies of the last two bulletins.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications

9. Legal Implications

9.1 The legal implications are included in the body of the report

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 There are no equalities implication

11. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

11.1 Appendix 1 Statement on Members declarations of interests at Council meetings

11.2 Appendix 2 Copies of Standards Board for England's July and September Bulletins