

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	21 st May 2019	:
TITLE:	Code of Conduct – Amendments regarding Councillor Role Descriptions and Gifts and Hospitality Guidance	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A – Gifts and hospitality guidance		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Standards Committee recommends that the Code of Conduct is amended to reference the Councillor Role Descriptions and that Council adopt the updated Councillors' Gifts and Hospitality Guidance (Appendix A).

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to agree;

- 2.1 That, on a recommendation from the Standards Committee, the Code of Conduct be amended to include the following paragraph;

Members are expected to work within the Role Descriptions that have been adopted and any Councillor complaints considered by the Standards Committee will use these as a guide;

- 2.2 That Council adopt the Councillors' Gifts and Hospitality Guidance as part of the Code of Conduct as recommended by the Standards Committee.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Council is required to have measures in place to ensure high standards of Councillor conduct, and also to have in place adequate arrangements to address the issue of the declaration of gifts and hospitality.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 A recent complaint to the Standards Committee highlighted the fact that the Council does not appear to have sufficient guidance on gifts and hospitality for councillors. At their meeting in October 2018 the Standards Committee asked the Monitoring Officer to draft guidance for their consideration. On 21st March 2019, the Standards Committee considered that guidance and agreed it should be recommended to the Council for adoption as part of the Code of Conduct. It was also agreed that the guidance would be sent to all Parish and Town Councils for their information.
- 5.2 At the Standards Committee on 21st March 2019, Members considered a set of Councillor Role Descriptions. A copy of the report and the Role Descriptions can be viewed via this link;

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/g4743/Public%20reports%20pack%2021st-Mar-2019%2018.15%20Standards%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 To ensure the Council's Constitution reflects best practice.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Comments by members of the public on the proposed guidance were considered by the Standards Committee at the March meeting.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Maria Lucas, Director of Legal & Democratic Services (01225) 395171</i>
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	