

Open Report on behalf of David O'Connor, Executive Director Performance and Governance

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	11 June 2012
Subject:	Officers' Register of Interests, Gifts and Hospitality

Summary:

To provide the Committee with an update on the review of current procedures relating to the declaration of officers' interests, gifts and hospitality.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee:

- 1) Notes that a management review of Lincolnshire County Council's register of officers' interests, gifts and hospitality has taken place.
- 2) Receives a report outlining the revised policy, guidance and forms at a future meeting.

Background

This committee has previously supported the introduction and implementation of a clear and consistent corporate policy covering the declaration of officers' interests, gifts and hospitality.

This support prompted a management review of the procedure, which confirmed a need to refresh the policy and documents relating to the register.

It also highlighted a need to raise officers' awareness of their duties under Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972, which prohibits the acceptance of any fee or reward whatsoever, other than their proper remuneration.

Revisions to the policy, guidance and documentation have been considered by Corporate Management Board and the trade unions are being consulted on the changes before the new documents are published.

An initial reminder to all staff has been issued via internal communications and further notices are planned to draw attention to the requirements of the legislation and provide officers with guidance.

The council's register of Members' interests is maintained by the council's Democratic Services team and it is felt appropriate that maintenance and monitoring of the officers' register should also be carried out by this team.

Conclusion

The proposed new arrangements for the declaration of officers' interests, gifts and hospitality should provide the necessary assurance that employees are aware of, and understand, their obligations and constraints in relation to the corporate register.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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