

Committee:	The Standards Committee
Date:	23 February 2026
Title:	The Gifts and Hospitality Register for Members
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Purpose:	To report on options for publication of the Register on the Council's website

Background

1. . This report is presented in accordance with the Committee's decision at its meeting on 3 November 2025 to receive a report on options to publish details of the Gift and Hospitality Register on Cyngor Gwynedd's website.

2. The Model Code of Conduct for Members makes it compulsory for members to provide written notification to the Monitoring Officer of any offer of a gift, hospitality material benefit or advantage above a value set by the authority and do so within 28 days. Gwynedd has decided that the value should be £25, and furthermore that such offers must be registered whether accepted or not.

3. A form is available for registering offers and a copy is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The Protocol

4. The Council adopted a Protocol for Members on Gifts and Hospitality in 2004. Following the publication of a new Code of Conduct and Guidelines by the Ombudsman the Standards Committee reviewed the Protocol and presented its recommendations to the Council. The Council adopted the current Protocol, incorporating the Committee's suggested amendments on 2 May 2013.

5. A copy of the Protocol is attached as **Appendix 2**.

The Register

6. This Committee has in past discussed whether the register should be published on the Council's website. It was decided then that it should not be. Whilst the Council must publish its register of Members' Interests on the website but no such obligation exists in respect of the register of Gifts and Hospitality.

Considerations

7. At present regular public reports are submitted to the committee setting out what is on the register but without naming the councillors concerned.

8. The Protocol states that " *the register shall be available to the public for inspection*" (para 6.2). It is also included in the Council's Publication Scheme as one of the Registers which are public, but only available in paper form.

9. The Code of Conduct for Members is based on the Nolan Principles, which are also specifically included in Gwynedd Council's Code of Conduct. These principles include:

"Integrity and Propriety

Members must not put themselves in a position where their integrity is called into question by any financial or other obligation to individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their duties. Members must on all occasions, avoid the appearances of such behaviour...

Openness

Members must be as open as possible about all their actions and those of their authority. They must seek to ensure that disclosure of information is restricted only in accordance with the law.

Accountability

Members are accountable to the electorate and the public generally for their actions and for the way they carry out their responsibilities as a member. They must be prepared to submit themselves to such scrutiny as it appropriate to their responsibilities."

10. Some registrations may contain personal data (e.g. details of the person who made the offer) or other information that would not be appropriate to disclose due to certain circumstances.

Conclusions

11. A procedure for registering gifts and hospitality is a core part of the ethical framework and promotes transparency and accountability by enabling the public to see what offers gifts and hospitality have been received by members by virtue of their position. It helps to strengthen and maintain public confidence in the way decisions are made while also protecting the members themselves from any baseless accusations. Full disclosure of the details (subject to any data protection considerations or particular special circumstances) is believed to be necessary to achieve these purposes.

12. In light of the above we consider that the publication of the Register on the Council's website would be appropriate and in line with the fundamental principles of the Ethical Framework. Nevertheless it would be necessary to ensure that any public disclosure meets the relevant data protection provisions.

Recommendation

13. The Committee is asked to consider the above conclusions