



Belper Town Council

Councillors' Code of Conduct

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1 Principles of Conduct

1.1 As a Member or co-opted Member of Belper Town Council ('the Authority') I have a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with the Authority's Officers and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for the community.

1.2 In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, when acting in this capacity as a Member or co-opted Member of the Authority, I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles known as the 'Seven Principles of Public Life' (or otherwise called 'the Nolan Principles') to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and public confidence in this Authority and more generally in the democratic way of life:

- **Selflessness**

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest

- **Integrity**

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their



work. They should not act or make decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

- **Objectivity**

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

- **Accountability**

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

- **Openness**

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

- **Honesty**

Holders of public office should be truthful

- **Leadership**

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

In addition, I am committed to the following principle:-

- **Bullying and Harassment**

Holders of public office must treat others with respect and must not pursue a course of conduct which amounts to bullying or harassment

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

2.1 I Shall:

2.1.1 Comply with the statutory requirements and also the local requirements which are to notify, register, disclose and withdraw from participating in respect of any matter in which I (or my spouse, civil partner or person with whom I am living together as a couple) have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by law – see Schedule



1).

2.1.2 Ensure that my register of interests is submitted to the Monitoring Officer (via Town Clerk) within 28 calendar days of my election or appointment or the Code being applied and ensure that such register is kept up to date (irrespective of whether or not any reminders have been sent to me) and I shall notify the Monitoring Officer (via Town Clerk) in writing within 28 calendar days of becoming aware of any change in respect of my (or my spouse's, civil partner's or person with whom I am living together as a couple's) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

2.1.3 Make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest at any meeting at which I am present at which, or when as a single member I am exercising alone a function relating to, an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent (unless the interest is a sensitive interest as defined in section 32 of the Localism Act 2011) in which event there is no need to disclose the nature of the interest).

2.1.4 Not vote on any matter which may affect the calculation of the Council Tax, any limitation of it, its administration or related penalties or enforcement if I am two or more months in arrears with a Council Tax payment.

2.2 Meeting means any meeting organised by or on behalf of the Authority

- Any meeting of the Authority, Council or a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council
- Any briefing by Officers and
- Any site visit to do with business of the Authority

3 Other Interests

3.1 In addition to the requirements of Paragraph 5.1 – 2, if I attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and I am aware that I have a 'non-disclosable pecuniary interest' or 'personal interest' in that item, I shall make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

3.2 I have a 'non-disclosable pecuniary interest' or 'personal interest' in an item of business



of my Authority where:

3.2.1 A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the wellbeing or financial standing of me or a member of my family or a person with whom I have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward for which I have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area.

3.2.2 It relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests listed in the table in Schedule 1 to this Code, but in respect of a member of my family (other than my spouse, civil partner or person with whom I am living as spouse or civil partner) or a person with whom I have a close association and that interest is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

3.3 If I have a 'non-disclosable pecuniary interest' or 'personal interest' as defined in Paragraph 5.1 – 3.2 above and that interest is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest, I shall when present at a meeting, disclose the interest and leave the room prior to the discussion and voting on the item as required under the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Examples of the Type of Interest in Paragraph 3.3

- Such matters affecting my financial position (excluding Members' allowances/indemnity, the setting of Council Tax or civic award) or other persons or bodies with which I have a close association (e.g. considering an application for a grant relating to a body or another Authority of which I am a Member or otherwise have an interest)
- Such matters relating to the determining of any regulatory matters and particularly planning and licensing applications
- Other circumstances defined in documents approved by the Authority.

3.5 When deciding whether I have an interest in a matter, I shall have regard to any advice or best practice issued by the Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk in reaching my decision.

3.6 I shall comply with the local requirement which is, within 28 days of accepting any position of responsibility, whether or not being on a management committee or officer,



on any and all bodies:

- (i) to which I am appointed or nominated by the Authority;
- (ii) which exercises functions of a public nature;
- (iii) which is directed to charitable purposes; or
- (iv) whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy including any political party or trade union.

to notify in writing the Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk of, and ensure entry on, my register of interests.

3.7 Within 28 days of any change to those interests which I am required to notify in paragraph 5.1 – 3.6 above, I shall notify in writing the Monitoring Officer (via the Town Clerk), and ensure entry on my register of interests, of such change.

4 Local Requirements relating to both Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests

4.1 I Shall:

4.1.1 Under the Council's best practice policy or similar policy, seek advice from the Officers, where needed, on matters relating to my interests and where the interest relates to a meeting, this shall be done by no later than 5.00pm two working days before the meeting.

4.1.2 Prior to the start of a meeting, or if exercising a function alone, record in writing on the form provided any relevant interest I have and record whether I intend to remain in the meeting or leave or, in the case of exercising a function alone, whether I intend to proceed to consider exercising that function.

5 General Conduct

As a Member of Belper Town Council, my conduct will in particular address the statutory principles and additional principles set out and incorporated in this Code of Conduct by:

5.1 Championing the needs of residents and other members of the public — the whole community and in a special way my constituents, including those who did not vote for me — and putting their interests first where the public interest so requires.

5.2 Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of our communities



and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.

- 5.3** Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of myself or others connected to me, to deter me from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the Town or the good governance of the Authority in a proper manner.
- 5.4** Exercising independent judgement and not compromising my position by placing myself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way I perform my duties as a Member/co-opted Member of this Authority.
- 5.5** Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional Officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit subject to law.
- 5.6** Being accountable for my decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by local residents.
- 5.7** Contributing to making this Authority's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible to enable residents and other members of the public to understand the reasoning behind those decisions and to be informed when holding me and other Members to account but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it.
- 5.8** Behaving in accordance with all legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within this Authority's policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Authority's resources.
- 5.9** Valuing my colleagues and Officers of the Authority and engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect between us that is essential to good and effective local government.
- 5.10** Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside.
- 5.11** Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community with other organisations as well as within this Authority.

6 Additional Local Requirements



shall conduct myself in accordance with the requirements set out in Belper Town

Council's Policy documents, including (but not exclusive) the following documents, copies of which are available on the Town Council Website;

- Councillor/Officer Protocol
- General Data Protection Policy
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Meeting Papers Policy
- Social Media and Internet Policy
- Tablet and Internet Usage Policy
- Gifts and Hospitality Protocol – Members (see Appendix A)

6.2 I confirm that I am committed to observe this Code of Conduct and, if a member of the Authority, to comply with the standards of behaviour set out in the Council's Local Election Compact detailed in Schedule 2.

7 Application of the Members' Code of Conduct

7.1 This Code of Conduct shall apply with effect from 1st July 2012 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct including behaviour by its Members and Co-opted Members whenever they conduct the business of the Authority including the business of the office to which they were elected or appointed or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Authority.



Members' Code of Conduct
Schedule 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to notify, register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011. Disclosable Pecuniary

Interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and with amendments is as follows:

Interest	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a Member, or towards your election expenses.</p> <p>This Includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial Interest) and the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed (b) Which has not been fully discharged.



<p>Land</p>	<p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area.</p> <p>For this purpose 'land' includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.</p>
<p>Licences</p>	<p>Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.</p>
<p>Corporate tenancies</p>	<p>Any tenancy where (to your knowledge):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The landlord is the Council and (b) The tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest.
<p>Securities</p>	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area</p> <p>Either:</p> <p>The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or</p> <p>If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class</p> <p>For this purpose, 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.</p>



Note: The provisions in Paragraph 5.1 - 2 of the Code in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and to withdraw from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their Interest.



Members' Code of Conduct

Schedule 2 - Local Election Compact

As an elected Member of Belper Town Council, I:

- (a) Believe in the importance of fostering good relations between people in the groups covered by equality law (namely age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and religion or belief) and other people in the community of Belper.
- (b) Give an undertaking to represent the interests of all constituents.
- (c) Reject all forms of discriminatory conduct, violence, harassment and unlawful discrimination.
- (d) Agree not to publish or endorse material likely to generate hostility or division between people in the groups covered by equality law and other people.
- (e) Will ensure that, when canvassing, I do not use any actions or words that might lead others to discriminate or stir up hatred, or lead to prejudice on the grounds of one or more characteristics of people in the groups covered by equality law or any other ground.
- (f) Give an undertaking that anyone involved in my campaign for election will abide by these principles and accepts that any breach will be investigated and appropriate action will be taken against offenders.



Appendix A Gifts and Hospitality Protocol - Members

1. Introduction

1.1 The acceptance of gifts and hospitality by Councillors is not merely an administrative issue. It reflects directly upon the perception of Councillors and of the Council as acting in the public interest or impermissibly as acting for their personal advantage or of their close relatives and friends and for what personal benefit Councillors, their close relatives and friends can get out of the Councillors' position. There is a clear obligation to serve the public interest only and this Protocol seeks to underline this strict requirement. This Protocol shall be read in conjunction with the Members' Code of Conduct set out in Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

1.2 Under no circumstances shall any Councillor personally accept any cash gift, whatever its value. A member must within 28 days of receiving any non-cash gift or hospitality over the value of £50 (or totalling £100 over a year from a single source) in their capacity as a Councillor, provide written notification to the Council's Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk of the existence and nature of that gift or hospitality. Failure to comply with this requirement is a breach of the Council's Members' Code of Conduct reportable to the Standards and Appeals Committee. Such notification shall be duly recorded and made public.

1.3 In addition, the Bribery Act 2010 creates an offence of bribing another person or being bribed. This could apply to the holder of a public office where the intention is to bring about an improper performance of a relevant function or an activity by another person or to reward such improper performance. Conviction could result in a fine or imprisonment. There is also the common law offence of misconduct in a public office.

1.4 Against this background, the purpose of this Protocol is to set out:-

- (a) the principles which a Councillor should apply whenever he/she has to decide whether it would be proper to accept any gift or hospitality;



- (b) a procedure for obtaining consent to accept a gift or hospitality, when a Councillor considers that it would be proper to accept it;
- (c) a procedure for declaring any gift or hospitality which a Councillor receives and for accounting for any gift to the Council.

Please note that this Protocol does not apply to the acceptance of any facilities or hospitality which may be provided by the Council itself. In addition, the Protocol only applies to offers of gifts or hospitality made to a Councillor in their role as such. However, in this respect, there may be circumstances where a Councillor needs to be cautious as to the basis on which an offer is made.

2. General Principles

In deciding whether it is proper to accept even any gift or hospitality, the following principles should be applied. Even if the gift or hospitality comes within one of the general consents set out below, it should not be accepted if to do so would be in breach of one or more of these principles:

- (a) Never accept a gift or hospitality as an inducement or reward for anything done as a Councillor.

A Councillor must act in the public interest and must not be swayed in the discharge of their duties by the offer, prospect of an offer, or the non-offer of any inducement or reward for discharging those duties in a particular manner. As already explained the acceptance of such an offer amounts to a criminal offence. Councillors must act in the public interest, serving the Council and the whole community, rather than acting in the interests of any particular individual or section of the community. It is a breach to improperly confer any advantage or disadvantage on any person, including oneself.

- (b) A gift or hospitality should only be accepted if there is a commensurate benefit to the Council.



The only proper reason for accepting any gift or hospitality is that there is a commensurate benefit for the Council which would not have been available but for the acceptance of that gift or hospitality. Acceptance of hospitality can confer an advantage on the Council, such as an opportunity to progress the business of the Council expeditiously through a working lunch, or to canvass the interests of the Council and its area at a meeting. Acceptance of a gift is much less likely to confer such an advantage. But unless the benefit to the Council is clear and is commensurate with the value of the gift or hospitality, the presumption must be that the gift or hospitality is purely for Councillor's personal benefit. Councillors must not improperly confer any advantage on anyone, including themselves. Acceptance as a Councillor of a gift or hospitality for their own benefit or advantage, rather than for the benefit to the Council, would be a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

- (c) Never accept a gift or hospitality if acceptance might be open to misinterpretation.

The appearance of impropriety can be just as damaging to the Council and to a Councillor as actual impropriety. The Council's ability to govern rests upon its reputation for acting fairly and in the public interest. Councillors must therefore consider whether the acceptance of the gift or hospitality is capable of being interpreted as a sign that they or the Council favours any particular person, company or section of the community or as placing themselves under any improper obligation to any person or organisation. If there is any possibility that it might be so interpreted, a Councillor must either refuse the gift or hospitality or take appropriate steps to ensure that such a misunderstanding cannot arise. Certain occasions are particularly sensitive and require the avoidance of any opportunity for such misunderstanding.

These include:-



- (i) occasions when the Council is going through a competitive procurement process, in respect of any indication of favour for a particular tenderer;
 - (ii) determinations of planning applications or planning policy, in respect of any person or organisation which stands to gain or lose from the determination;
 - (iii) funding decisions, when the Council is determining a grant application by any person or organisation.
- (d) Never accept a gift or hospitality if that places a Councillor under an improper obligation.

It is important to recognise that some commercial organisations and private individuals see the provision of gifts and hospitality as a means of buying influence. If a Councillor accepts a gift or hospitality improperly, it is possible that they may seek to use this fact to persuade the Councillor to determine an issue in their favour. Equally, if others note that a Councillor has been prepared to accept a gift or hospitality improperly, they may feel that they will no longer be able to secure impartial consideration from the Council.

- (e) Never solicit a gift or hospitality.

Councillors must never solicit or invite an offer of a gift or hospitality in connection with their position as a Councillor unless the acceptance of that gift or hospitality would be permitted under this Protocol. Councillors should also take care to avoid giving any indication that they might be open to such an improper offer.

3. Consent Regimes

- (a) General consent provisions

For clarity, the Council has agreed that Councillors may accept gifts and hospitality in the following circumstances:-

- (i) civic hospitality provided by another public authority;



- (ii) modest refreshment in connection with any meeting in the ordinary course of their work as a Councillor, such as tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits;
- (iii) small gifts of low intrinsic value of £50 or less (provided that such gifts do not total £100 in value over a year from a single source), branded with the name of the company or organisation making the gift, such as pens, pencils, mouse pads, calendars and diaries. However, care should be taken not to display any such branded items when this might be taken as an indication of favour to a particular supplier or contractor, for example in the course of a procurement exercise;
- (iv) a modest working lunch not exceeding £50 (provided that such gifts do not total £100 in value over a year from a single source) a head in the course of a meeting in the offices of a party with whom the Council has an existing business connection where this is required in order to facilitate the conduct of that business. Councillors should not make such arrangements themselves, but request officers to settle the detailed arrangements, and officers are under instruction, when arranging any such meeting, to make it clear to the other party that such a lunch must not exceed a value of £50 a head;
- (vi) modest souvenir gifts with a value of £50 or less (provided that such gifts do not total £100 in value over a year from a single source) from another public authority given on the occasion of a visit by or to the authority;
- (vii) hospitality received in the course of an external visit or meeting which has been duly authorised by the Council. Councillors should not make such arrangements themselves, but request officers to settle the detailed arrangements, and officers are under instruction to make it clear that any such hospitality for Councillors and officers is to be no more than commensurate with the nature of the visit;



(vii) other unsolicited gifts, where it is impracticable to return them to the person or organisation making the gift, provided that the Councillor deals with the gift strictly in accordance with the following procedure: The Councillor must, as soon as practicable after the receipt of the gift, pass it to the Mayor's Civic Links Officer together with a written statement identifying the information set out in Paragraph 3(b) below. The Mayor's Civic Links Officer will then write to the person or organisation making the gift thanking them on your behalf for the gift and informing them that the Councillor has donated the gift to the Mayor's Charity Fund, on whose behalf it will be raffled or otherwise disposed of in due course, the proceeds being devoted to a charitable cause chosen by the Mayor.

(b) Special consent provisions

Councillors who wish to accept any gift or hospitality which is in accordance with the General Principles set out in Paragraph 2, but is not within any of the general consents set out in Paragraph 3(a), may only do so if they have previously obtained specific consent in accordance with the following procedure:

A written application must be made to the Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk, setting out:

- (i) the nature and an estimate of the market value of the gift or hospitality;
- (ii) who the invitation or offer has been made by or on behalf of;
- (iii) the connection which the Councillor has with the person or organisation making the offer or invitation, such as any work which the Councillor has undertaken for the Council in which they have been involved;
- (iv) any work, permission, concession or facility which the Councillor is aware that the person or organisation making the offer or invitation may seek from the Council;
- (v) any special circumstances which lead the Councillor to believe that acceptance of the gift or hospitality will not be improper.



The gift or hospitality must not be accepted until consent has been given by or on behalf of the Council. The Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk will enter details of any approval in a register which will be available for public inspection on the occasion of the public inspection of the Council's accounts for the relevant year. But note that this does not relieve the Councillor of the obligation to register the receipt of gift or hospitality in accordance with Paragraph 4 below.

4. Reporting

Where a Councillor accepts any gift or hospitality which is estimated to have a market value or cost of provision of more than £50, the Councillor must, as soon as possible after receipt of the gift or hospitality, make a declaration in writing to the Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk, setting out the information set out in Paragraph 3(b) above. The Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk will retain a copy of any such declaration in a register which will be available for public inspection until the approval of the Council's accounts for the financial year in question. Even if the value of the gift or hospitality is £50 or less, if the recipient is concerned that its acceptance might be misinterpreted, and particularly where it comes from a contractor or tenderer, he/she may make a voluntary declaration in the same manner to ensure that there is nothing secret or underhand about the gift or hospitality.

5. Gifts to the Council

Gifts to the Council may take the form of the provision of land, goods or services, either to keep or to test with a view to future acquisition, an offer to carry out works or sponsorship of a function which is organised or supported by the Council. A Councillor should not solicit any such gift on behalf of the Council except where the Council has formally identified the opportunity for participation by an external party and how that participation is to be secured. A Councillor who receives such an offer on behalf of the Council, must first consider whether it is



appropriate for the Council to accept the offer (in terms of whether the acceptance of the gift might be seen as putting the Council under any improper obligation, whether there is a real benefit to the Council which would outweigh any dis-benefits). A Councillor who does not have delegated authority to accept the gift, should report the offer directly to the Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk who has such delegated authority, together with a recommendation as to whether the gift should be accepted. The Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk will then write back to the person or organisation making the offer, to record the acceptance or non-acceptance of the gift, record the gift for audit purposes and ensure that the gift is properly applied for the benefit of the Council. A Councillor who has concerns about the motives of the person or organisation making the offer, or whether it would be proper for the Council to accept the gift, you should consult the Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk directly.

6. Refused Offers

As a result of this protocol, there will be a number of circumstances when offers of gifts and hospitality must be refused. In addition, there will be circumstances where a Councillor wishes to refuse an offer even though the protocol allows its acceptance. Whilst it is not considered necessary in every case that such offers are recorded, there will be circumstances when it is in the public interest that they should be recorded.

These are:-

- (a) when the offer appears to be an inducement or reward for something expected from the Councillor (see paragraph 2(a));
- (b) offers from commercial organisations or private individuals over £50 in value.

In these circumstances, details should be passed to the Monitoring Officer/Town Clerk within 28 days of the offer being made.

7. Definitions



- (a) "Councillor" includes outside appointments to Committees.
- (b) "Gift or hospitality" includes:
 - (i) the free gift of any goods or services;
 - (ii) the opportunity to acquire any goods or services at a discount or on terms which are more advantageous than those which are available to the general public;
 - (iii) the opportunity to obtain any goods or services which are not available to the general public;
 - (iv) the offer of food, drink, accommodation or entertainment, or the opportunity to attend any cultural, sporting or entertainment event.
- (c) References to the "value" or "cost" of any gift or hospitality are references to the higher of:
 - (i) the estimate of the cost to the person or organisation of providing the gift or consideration;
 - (ii) the open market price which a member of the public would have to pay for the gift or hospitality, if it were made available commercially to the public, less the cash sum of any contribution which the Councillor would be required to make towards that price to the person or organisation providing or offering the gift or hospitality.