

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Audit & Corporate Governance Committee **DATE:** 7 March 2019

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sushil Thobhani, Service Lead Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **POLICY ON DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee a draft policy on the acceptance of donations and sponsorships in accordance with the Committee's direction at their last meeting on 13 December 2018.

##### **2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the policy on acceptance of donations and sponsorships, as appended to this report, be approved.

##### **3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

The delivery of all these strategic priorities is dependent on the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. This is underpinned by good governance arrangements being in place.

##### **4 Other Implications**

###### **(a) Financial**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

###### **(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act or other legal implications arising from this report.

###### **(c) Equalities Impact Assessment**

There is no identified need for an EIA arising from this Report.

##### **5 Supporting Information**

- 5.1. At their meeting on 13 December 2018 the Committee considered a report on blind donations and sponsorships. The Committee agreed that the Service Lead, Governance should put together a policy and report to a future meeting.

- 5.2 The report to the Committee at their last meeting pointed out that the concerns in this area were primarily around the issues of ethics and illegality in that donations and sponsorships could be used to seek to evade the regulations relating to money laundering and as a means of bribery and corruption.
- 5.3 It is considered, therefore, that the appropriate manner for the Council to adopt a policy on donations and sponsorships would be to incorporate such a policy within the Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy in Part 5.7 of the Constitution.
- 5.4 There is a separate report before the Council today on revisions to the Constitution which set out the details of the manner in which such a policy could be incorporated into the Constitution. This report seeks to deal with the policy itself.
- 5.5 A draft policy on donations and sponsorships has been prepared and it is appended to this Report.
- 5.6 The report to the Committee at their last meeting provided the Committee with some examples of policies on donations and sponsorships adopted by another local authority and some other organisations.
- 5.7 The common characteristics of all of these policies are that they set out principles which will guide the acceptance of donations and sponsorships, they describe individuals or organisations from whom donations and sponsorships will not be accepted, they reserve the right to refuse to accept donations and sponsorships at the discretion of the accepting body and to carry out due diligence enquiries as to the source of funds, they seek to retain control over the form of any advertisements and they set out the internal governance arrangements of the accepting body with regard to acceptance of donations and sponsorships.
- 5.8 The draft policy appended to this report seeks to adopt these characteristics.
- 5.9 The principles which the draft policy sets out which will guide the acceptance of donations and sponsorships are that they must not bring the Council into disrepute, they must reflect the integrity of the Council and they must not influence or fetter the Council in the proper discharge of their duties.
- 5.10 The draft policy set out that the individuals or organisations from whom the Council will not accept donations and sponsorships are ones who breach laws relating to modern slavery, laws relating to discrimination based on protected characteristics, laws relating to advertising, who are engaged in the business of selling alcohol or fast food or who are licenced sex establishments or betting or gaming establishments or who are in conflict with the Council in any way.
- 5.11 The internal governance arrangements set out in the draft policy for dealing with the acceptance of donations and sponsorships provide for the Council's Section 151 Officer to monitor all donations and sponsorships and for the Council Management Team to be responsible for all decisions in this area and for that team to consult the Leader and Lead Members upon any sponsorships having significant long term affects such as naming of buildings.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

The draft policy appended to this Report has been considered by the Council's Member Panel on the Constitution and agreed by that Panel

7. **Conclusion**

It is considered that the incorporation of a policy on donations and sponsorships in the form appended to this Report in the manner detailed in the separate report on revisions to the Constitution before the Committee today would be a prudent step to take to fill a gap in and to strengthen the Council's governance arrangements for the future.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix – Draft Policy on Donations and Sponsorships

9. **Background Papers**

None