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**REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**


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**MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2009**


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Chairman:	* The Right Revd Peter Broadbent	
Councillors:	* Husain Akhtar	* Paul Osborn (1)
	* B E Gate	* M Rizvi
	* Joyce Nickolay	* Jeremy Zeid (3)
	* Asad Omar	
Independent Persons:	* Ms Sheila Darr	Dr J Kirkland

\* Denotes Member present  
(1) and (3) Denote category of Reserve Member

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**
**RECOMMENDATION II - Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality**

The Committee considered a report which set out a draft protocol on gifts and hospitality. In response to questions raised by Members, an officer explained that:

- the threshold of registering gifts and hospitality with an estimated value of £25 or more, applied at the time of receipt;
- the term 'short period' was interpreted by a common sense approach;
- it was in Members' best interest to ensure that they fully registered gifts and hospitality to ensure protection.

The Committee agreed an amendment to paragraph 4.1 in that the term 'It is acceptable' be altered to read 'It is normal'. A Member commented that serving Mayors received a wealth of gifts during their term, which were then stored in the Mayor's office. Many gifts were of no consequential value but had sentimental value to past Mayors. It was suggested that consideration be given to the possibility that some of these gifts being passed on to past Mayors at the end of their terms. Officers undertook to investigate this further.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:**

That (1) an amendment be made to paragraph 4.1 to replace the words 'It is acceptable' to 'It is normal';

(2) Council be requested to approve the revised Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality for inclusion in the Constitution.