



<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>20 July 2020</b>

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**SUBJECT: LGA - Consultation on Draft Model Code of Conduct**

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## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To prove the Committee to review the proposed revised Draft Model Code of Conduct and consider its response to the Consultation.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to advise the Monitoring Officer of its views on the Consultation questions and to then delegate to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, the task of submitting the Committee's response to the Consultation questions.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

The Local Government Association (LGA) has committed to reviewing the current model member code of conduct, as recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report into [Local Government Ethical Standards](#). The LGA held an event on [Civility in Public Life](#) with a range of stakeholders at the end of last year and three consultation workshops at the beginning of this year. LGA consultants have also examined examples of good practice, both in local government and other professions. The LGA [consultation draft model member code of conduct](#) is the result of this initial work. It is the intention to create additional guidance, working examples and explanatory text. The LGA are inviting and would very much welcome comment on the consultation draft.

This is the direct link to access it. <https://www.local.gov.uk/code-conduct-consultation-2020>

Attached as an Appendix to this report are the Code of Conduct consultation questions and the Committee are asked to advise the Monitoring Officer of its views on the Consultation questions and to then delegate to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, the task of submitting the Committee's response to the Consultation questions.

All Members of the Council have also been sent full details of the consultation and they can also comment directly individually to the consultation.

The consultation on the draft member code of conduct runs until **Monday 17 August**.

All Members of the Council have also been invited to join the LGA at a number of webinars over the summer should they wish to discuss the draft code in more detail.

The feedback from the consultation will help the LGA to develop a final draft, which will be reviewed by the LGA's Executive Advisory Board before being presented to the next LGA General Assembly, which they hope will be held in the Autumn of 2020.

#### **4. RATIONALE**

The LGA has committed to reviewing the current model member code of conduct, as recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report into [Local Government Ethical Standards](#).

The Standards Committee has the role within the Council (as set out in the Constitution), to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members and to assist councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members Code of Conduct. It also has the role to maintain and review a Code of Conduct for Members of the Council.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The current Council Code of Conduct was adopted in line with the Council's obligations under section 27 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 and complies with the requirements under section 28 of the Act. Consideration of revisions reflecting on the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report into local government ethical standards are being led by the LGA. Any final recommendations for adoption of revisions to the current Code following the consultation would be subject to a further report and Council approval. In addition, depending on any revised version of the Code (which is adopted by Council), the Council's Arrangements for dealing with Member Complaints may need to be reviewed to reflect relevant changes.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

A governance framework in local authorities is necessary to promote and maintain high ethical standards, and to ensure public confidence.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None contained in this report.

#### **8. CONSULTATIONS**

The Standards Committee regularly discusses the Council's arrangements for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, and this consultation document from the LGA has been circulated to all elected members and senior officers, all have been invited to submit their views individually or collectively.

#### **Chief Officer/Member**

Contact Officer: David Fairclough

Date: 9 July 2020

Background Papers: LGA Consultation for New Code of Conduct for Members 2020