

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

Councillors Saima Afzal

PORTFOLIO COORDINATING

DIRECTOR: David Fairclough

This report updates the Council Forum on the work of the Standards Committee.

Committee on Standards in Public Life - Local Government Ethical Standards.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life made a number of recommendations in their January 2019 report on local government ethical standards. In that report, they identified some best practice recommendations which represent a benchmark for ethical practice and which they expect any local authority should implement. The Standards Committee reviewed the recommendations made and as set out in the Appendices to this report considered these, against the current Code of Conduct and Constitution and also considered the option of adopting the latest Model Code of Conduct produced by the LGA.

After considering the options the Standards Committee unanimously recommended to the Council Forum

- 1) Adopt the 15 best practice recommendations which the Committee on Standards in Public Life consider represent a benchmark for ethical practice and which they expect any local authority should implement (Appendix A).

Then subject to 1) above agree the Full Council:

- 2) Update the local *Code of Conduct* and update the local *Arrangements for dealing with Complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members* to reflect the Committee on Standards in Public Life best practice recommendations as set out in both documents referenced in Appendix B;
- 3) That Best Practice Recommendation 5 – continue to apply annually for administrative effectiveness and efficiency.
- 4) That Best Practice Recommendation 15 – be applied on an annual basis with Group Leaders.

**Councillor Saima Afzal
Chair of Standards Committee**

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