


**ETHICAL STANDARDS AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**4 December 2020**

<b>Subject:</b>	Review of Member Code of Conduct/Arrangements – Standards Working Group update
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Elaine Newsome – Service Manager Democracy

**DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That :**

1. The Committee notes the update on the work of the Standards Working Group and the series of workshops for all elected members in relation to the Review of the Member Code of Conduct/Arrangements and endorses the approach.
2. The Committee notes the response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life Best Practice Recommendations.

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The Standards Working Group has met twice since the last meeting of the Committee and has given consideration to the methodology/timeline for the review of the Member Code of Conduct/Arrangements.

## **2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030**

- 2.1 This matter falls within the Council's Governance agenda which sits at the heart of delivering Vision 2030.

## **3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 In 2018 the Committee on Standards in Public Life announced a review of ethical standards in local government. The report into Local Government Ethical Standards was published on 19 January 2019, which included a number of recommendations. The report was submitted to Government and a formal response is awaited in relation to how those recommendations will be addressed.
- 3.2 The first recommendation of the report into Local Government Ethical Standards was that the Local Government Association should draft a model code of conduct. In response to this recommendation, LGA consultation has taken place on a draft Model Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 It is expected that the Model Code of Conduct will be made available in the coming weeks and consideration has been given to a series of workshops/engagement sessions to take place to enable all elected members to provide feedback on the current Code, the LGA Model Code of Conduct and to form the basis of the Member Code of Conduct and Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints. The workshops are due to commence in early December and will be accompanied by a survey.
- 3.4 In addition, the Committee on Standards in Public Life has provided some best practice recommendations to be taken into consideration. These have been considered by the Standards Working Group and the response which has been provided on how these are/will be addressed is attached at Appendix One. These recommendations will also be factored into the review of the Code of Conduct/Arrangements and the engagement sessions.

## **3 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

- 3.1 A series of workshops are proposed to take place with all elected members.

## **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Council has to have a Member Code of Conduct and the outcome of the engagement sessions will inform the review of the Code and the Arrangements for dealing with Complaints.

## **5 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None directly associated with this report.

## **6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its elected members. The Code of Conduct sets out the expectations placed on members.

## **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 None associated with this report.

## **8 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 None associated with this report.

## **9 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 The proposed revised code of conduct forms part of a wider piece of work by the LGA to explore civility in public life.

## **10 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS**

- 10.1 The Council has a responsibility to ensure that the Monitoring Officer is appropriately resourced in order to that they are able to carry out their statutory functions.

**11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)**

11.1 None associated with this report.

**12 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

12.1 None associated with this report.

**13 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 The LGA review of the model code will influence the direction of the Council's review of its governance arrangements. It is appropriate and timely for the Committee and the Council's Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer to review the Council's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with Complaints.

**14 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14.1 None associated with this report.

**15 APPENDICES:**

**Appendix 1** – Committee on Standards in Public Life – Best Practice recommendations response

**Surjit Tour**

**Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer**