

Report to Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

7 March 2023

Subject:	Review of Member's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct
Director:	Surjit Tour - Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Vanessa Maher-Smith Legal Services Manager – Governance and Regulatory

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee agree that the Member's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct do not require any amendments.
- 1.2 A thorough review of the Member's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct will be conducted in 2024 which will include consultation with key stakeholders.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Under paragraph 17 of the Council's Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct, there shall be a desktop review of the Code of Conduct and these Arrangements undertaken by the Committee with the Monitoring Officer annually, and an in depth review undertaken every 2 years.
- 2.2 A desktop review of the Code of Conduct and Arrangements was completed in 2022. Minor amendments were made to the Code of







Conduct in line with proposals made by the LGA in relation to the Model Code of Conduct. No amendments were required to the Arrangements.

2.3 A further desktop review has been conducted for 2023 and no amendments have been identified. The Council has received a number of complaints throughout 2022, including one that was referred to a Standards Hearing in December 2022. The Code of Conduct and Arrangements have therefore been tested in practice and no issues have been identified.

2.4 It is proposed that a thorough review be conducted in 2024, with relevant stakeholders being consulted.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		High standards of conduct are an essential part of good corporate governance and this in turn has a direct relationship with the delivery of high quality services.
		
		

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 As set out above, it is necessary for an annual review of the Member's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct to be completed in order to ensure it is accurate and consistent.

5 Implications

Resources:	There are no resource implications arising from this report
Legal and Governance:	None
Risk:	None
Equality:	There are no equality issues arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There is no impact on health or wellbeing arising from this report.



Social Value	There are no implications for social value arising directly from this report.
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6 Appendices

None

7. Background Papers

Current Member's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct

<https://sandwellintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD402&ID=402&sch=doc>

