

## **Local Government Ethical Standards Update**

### **Purpose**

1. To update the Standards Committee on the progression of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's review of Local Government Ethical Standards.

### **Background**

2. On 29 January 2018 the Committee on Standards in Public Life (COSIPL) undertook a review of Local Government Ethical Standards.
3. On 30 January 2019 the COSIPL released its report into Local Government Ethical Standards and an executive summary of its conclusions was presented to the Standards Committee on 1 May 2019.
4. The Standards Committee considered the consultation questions and provided a response on behalf of the council, which is included as Appendix 1.

### **Main Considerations**

5. On 18 March 2022 the Government formally responded to the report and recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. This response is set out in full at Appendix 2.
6. Some of the most significant recommendations from the Committee included reintroducing the ability to suspend councillors as a sanction following an investigation and hearing, and that the criminal offences relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests within the Localism Act 2011 should be abolished. Other recommendations included that parish councils should adopt the Code of their principal authority.
7. The government did not agree with the major recommendations listed above, but did agree to keep some recommendations under review or to seek further engagement. This included engaging with local government on options to strengthen sanctions for serious incidents of bullying, harassment and disruptive behaviour. It also stated it would keep under review matters relating to registration of disclosable interests, but did not have current plans to amend legislation or regulations.

### **Recommendation:**

8. The Committee are asked:

To note the update on the Government response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Review of Local Government Ethical Standards.

**Perry Holmes, Director of Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer**

---

Report Author: Lisa Alexander, Senior Democratic Services Officer,  
[lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Council’s response to COSIPL Review of Local Government  
Ethical Standards

Appendix 2 – Government response to the COSIPL