

Wiltshire council

Standards Committee

4 February 2021

Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct

Purpose

1. To ask the Committee to consider the LGA model code of conduct and decide what action the Committee wishes to take in respect of it.

Background

2. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 all councils are required to have a local Member Code of Conduct. Although there is no national Code, bodies such as the LGA have produced model Codes for adoption by councils.
3. On 30 January 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life published a report on Local Government Ethical Standards, following a consultation in 2018.
4. The first recommendation of the 30 January 2019 report was that the LGA should create an updated model code of conduct, in consultation with representative bodies of councillors and officers of all tiers of local government.
5. A consultation on a draft Model Code took place from 8 June 2020 – 17 August 2020. The draft Model Code of Conduct is included at **Appendix A**. The Committee at its meeting on 7 June 2020 delegated preparation of a response to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman, to include seeking the views of Group Leaders.
6. That response to the consultation is attached at **Appendix B**.

Main Considerations

7. The LGA have published analysis of the consultation responses, available at [this link](#), summarising key results from the consultation responses they received.
8. The LGA subsequently approved a new model Code of Conduct in December 2020 as attached at **Appendix C**. This includes code provisions, guidance and the Committee on Standards in Public Life Recommendations on Best Practice.
9. It is recommended that the approved Code be referred to the Constitution Focus Group to review and come back with comments and recommendations to be considered by the Standards Committee.

Safeguarding Implications

10. There are no safeguarding issues arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

11. There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

12. There are no significant risks arising from this report

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

14. Under Section 28(5) Localism Act 2011 the council may revise its existing code of conduct or adopt a code of conduct to replace its existing code of conduct.

Public Health Implications

15. There are no public health impacts arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

16. There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

Workforce Implications

17. There are no workforce implications arising from this report.

Proposal

18. **To refer the updated Model Code to the Constitution Focus Group to review, and make comments and recommendations to the Standards Committee as appropriate.**

Ian Gibbons, Director of Legal and Governance (and Monitoring Officer)

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Appendices

Appendix A – LGA draft Model Code of Conduct

Appendix B – Standards Committee response to Consultation

Appendix C – Approved LGA Model Code of Conduct

Background Papers

[LGA Model Code of Conduct Consultation Analysis](#)

[LLG Explanatory Note on the Model Code](#)