

Wiltshire council

Standards Committee

7 July 2020

Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct Consultation

Background

1. 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.
2. On 30 January 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life published a report on Local Government Ethical Standards, following a consultation in 2018. The Standards Committee at its meeting on 18 April 2018 had authorised the Monitoring Officer after consultation with the Chairman to prepare a response to the consultation reflecting the Standards Committee's views on behalf of the Council.
3. As reported to the Standards Committee on 1 May 2019 many of the recommendations of the report of the Standards Committee on Standards in Public Life would require legislative changes. The Standards Committee had considered best practice recommendations listed in the report and did not consider amending the council's Code of Conduct was appropriate at that time.
4. The first recommendation of the 30 January 2020 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. Recommendation 20, which would require legislation, was that parish councils should be required to adopt the code of conduct of their principal authority, with the necessary amendments, or the new model code. The Standards Committee at its meeting on 18 April 2018 had also recommended creation of a single national code, or to allow for a single code to be applicable across a principal council area.

Main Considerations

5. The LGA have completed the drafting of a model Code of Conduct. A [consultation](#) on the draft Code is in progress for 10 weeks from **8 June 2020 - 17 August 2020**. The LGA state:

The LGA has committed to reviewing the current model member code of conduct, as recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report into [Local Government Ethical Standards](#). The LGA held an event on [Civility in Public Life](#) with a range of stakeholders at the end of last year and three consultation workshops at the beginning of this year. Our consultants have also examined examples of good practice, both in local government and other professions.

The LGA [consultation draft model member code of conduct](#) is the result of this initial work. It is the intention to create additional guidance, working examples and

explanatory text. We very much welcome comment on the consultation draft. We would particularly like to know if it stands up to the new ways of working that have been introduced and gives enough of a steer on social media and online activity.

6. The draft model Code of Conduct has been attached at **Appendix A**.
7. The Standards Committee is asked to consider the draft model Code of Conduct and whether and how it wishes to respond to the LGA consultation.
8. The LGA has stated it will accept responses in narrative form from Councils, however the questions in its online consultation are included at **Appendix B** for the information of the Committee only.

Safeguarding Implications

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

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

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

Risk Assessment

11. There are no significant risks arising from this report

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from this report

Public Health Impact of the Proposals

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

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

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

Proposal

16. **For the Standards Committee to make such recommendations as it feels appropriate in response to the consultation on the LGA draft model Code of Conduct.**

Ian Gibbons, Director of Legal, Electoral and Registration Services (and Monitoring Officer)

Report author: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer, 01225 718504,
kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Appendices

Appendix A – LGA draft Model Code of Conduct

Appendix B – LGA consultation questionnaire

Background Papers

[Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life on Local Government Ethical Standards 30 January 2019](#)

[Wiltshire Council response to the Review of Local Government Ethical Standards Consultation Webpage](#)