

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

21 OCTOBER 2020

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION DRAFT MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

Recommendation

- 1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that:**
 - (a) The update about the LGA draft member Code of Conduct be noted; and**
 - (b) A further report about the LGA Code be considered once a final version has been published.**

Background

2. The Committee will recall from previous reports that the National Committee on Standards and Public Life (often called the "Nolan Committee") visited the Council in September 2018 as part of its gathering of comments and evidence of good practice in local government – the Council was the only county council visited. Following the visit, the Chairman of the Committee was invited to attend the formal launch of the report at the end of January 2019.
3. Having considered the Nolan Committee's report, the Committee asked the Monitoring Officer to discuss changes to the pan Worcestershire Code with the District Council Monitoring Officers across the county. An updated version of the Code of Conduct was agreed by the Committee in October 2019. This took into account certain best practice recommendations from the Nolan Committee and was subsequently agreed by the County Council.
4. Since that decision, the Local Government Association (LGA) has drafted a model Code of Conduct as part of its work in supporting the sector to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. A copy of this is attached at Appendix 1. Once finalised, this will be offered as a template for councils to adopt as a whole and/or with local amendments.
5. On a few dates during the summer, the LGA ran an on-line seminar to discuss the draft and held an on-line consultation seeking views about it. Some Committee members attended a seminar and the Committee also met informally to discuss the draft Code. The Committee's response to the LGA draft and consultation is enclosed at Appendix 2.
6. The LGA is currently preparing a revised draft for consideration by the LGA Councillors Forum on 22 October with a view to it being approved by the LGA Board in early December. The approved Code will then be published.

7. Given the pan-Worcestershire Code is appreciated for the consistency in approach across local authorities in the area, I propose to bring a further report to the Committee once the LGA final version is published, to consider next steps.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Draft Member Code of Conduct for consultation by the LGA
- Appendix 2 – Response of the Standards and Ethics Committee to the LGA consultation.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.