

COUNCIL
19 MAY 2022

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(c) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Local Government Association Member Code of Conduct

1. The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed 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. This was offered as a template for councils to adopt as a whole and/or with local amendments.
2. Since consideration of the model code by this Committee in October 2021, the Monitoring Officers from the District Councils and Fire Authority have met to consider the views from each Council, and prepared a draft Code based on the LGA Code for consideration. The aim is to continue to use a Code of Conduct which is the same across the County and District Councils and the Fire Authority. The main points of difference in the LGA Code from the current Code are:
 - More detailed explanation of the requirements of each element of the Code. The Committee had previously supported this as being helpful to Councillors and members of the public
 - A requirement to register 'Other' interests. For example where a Councillor holds an unpaid directorship or is in a position of control with a charity. Currently there is no requirement to register such interests
 - The 10 general principles of public life are retained, the LGA Code has seven
 - Inclusion of best practice recommendations at Appendix C.
3. The Committee has deferred consideration of the item to a future Committee meeting to allow more time to receive feedback about the outcome of consideration of the proposed Code of Conduct by Worcestershire district councils, and subject to a briefing being arranged on the revised Code for all members of the Council.

Recruitment of Independent Member

4. The constitution sets out that the Committee should have 3 non-voting independent members upon it in addition to the elected members. Independent Member Cliff Slade resigned from the role earlier this year, so there is a need to appoint a 3rd (who cannot be an elected member or an officer of the Council).
5. The Committee has authorised the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to finalise the detailed arrangements for the appointment of the independent member by the Committee

based on the previous recruitment approach and making use of relevant social media.

Cllr Bob Brookes
Chairman

Contact Points

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) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee held on 20 October 2021.

[Agenda for Standards and Ethics Committee on Wednesday, 27th April, 2022, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)