

COUNCIL
18 MAY 2023

COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Recommendation

- 1. The Standards and Ethics Committee recommends that the draft Code of Conduct as set out as an Appendix be adopted by Council.**

Background

2. At its meeting on 16 March the Standards and Ethics Committee considered a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors. This has arisen from work done by the Local Government Association.
3. The LGA has developed the Model Code as part of its work in supporting the sector to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. The LGA offered this as a template for councils to adopt as a whole and/or with local amendments.
4. Having participated in consultation about content, the Committee agreed to consider the Code once published. Previously there has been a consistent 'pan Worcestershire' Code adopted by the County, six District Councils and Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority. Each Standards Committee asked Monitoring Officers to work together to consider the LGA Code and whether some elements of the Worcestershire Code should be retained.
5. The Standards and Ethics Committee considered the potential additions to the LGA Code but is not recommending that these are included. The Committee considered that as the LGA Code has been adopted by many Councils across the country, then for consistency and to minimise confusion, the Code should be adopted as written.

Supporting Information

Appendix – LGA Model Member Code of Conduct

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) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report as the documents relied on are already published. These documents are:

The report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life: [Local government ethical standards: report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/Local-government-ethical-standards-report-2019-2020.pdf) .

The Government's response to the report: [Local government ethical standards: government response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/Local-government-ethical-standards-report-2019-2020.pdf)