

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE 18 OCTOBER 2023

MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Recommendation

1. The Committee is asked to consider a programme of training on the Members Code of Conduct and for the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance to be responsible for providing this.

Background

- 2. Codes of Conduct play an important role in maintaining ethical standards in an organisation. All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct.
- 3. The Council adopted the Local Government Association Member Code of Conduct at its meeting on 18 May 2023.
- 4. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to assist Councillors in modelling the behaviour expected of them and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. Guidance issued by the Local Government Association states that the fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.
- 5. The Committee is asked to consider what training they consider it will be helpful for members to receive in relation to the Code of Conduct adopted on 18 May 2023. This can include training on the new category of interests Members need to register, "Other Registrable Interests".
- 6. The Assistant Director of Legal and Governance recommends training on the new Code of Conduct and thereafter annual refresher training. This training can be on themes which the Committee considers it will be helpful for members to receive training on.

Legal implications

7. The legal implications are set out within the body of the report.

Finance implications

8. There are no finance implications arising from this report.

Supporting Information

Appendix One

Members Code of Conduct

Contact Points

<u>Specific Contact Points for this report</u> Hazel Best, Assistant Director for Legal and Governance

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Background Papers

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