

Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of David Coleman, Monitoring Officer

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	13 July 2020
Subject:	Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct

Summary:

This Report informs the Committee of the publication by the Local Government Association (LGA) of a consultation draft of a model Code of Conduct for Council members and invites the Committee to consider how to respond to the consultation draft issued by the LGA.

Recommendation(s):

That the Audit Committee:-

- 1) Notes and considers the draft Model Code of Conduct issued for the purposes of consultation by the LGA and determines whether to issue a response; and
- 2) If it determines to respond, delegates to the Monitoring Officer authority to determine the final form of the Council's response to the LGA in consultation with the members of this Committee and such other members as he considers appropriate.

Background

One of the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in their Report on ethical standards in local government of January 2019 was that the Local Government Association (LGA) should produce a Model Code of Conduct for use by authorities. The aim of this was to introduce a level of consistency across local government.

The LGA has now issued a Model Code for consultation a copy of which is attached at Appendix A.

An initial comparison of the Model Code to the County Council's revised Code suggests there are differences between them and in particular the inclusion in the Model Code of:-

- a requirement not to bring the Council into disrepute including by acting dishonestly.
- a requirement to act with civility.
- a requirement not to compromise the impartiality of anyone who works for or on behalf of the Council.
- a requirement not to misuse Council resources and facilities.
- a wider range of declarable interest going beyond the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests defined in law.

The LGA has initiated a period of consultation ending on 17 August 2020 and has identified a number of questions set out in Appendix B.

The Committee will wish to consider whether it submits a response to the consultation and how to determine the content of that response. If the Committee decides to respond it is proposed that the Monitoring Officer is given delegated authority to determine the final form of the response in consultation with the members of this Committee and such other members as he considers appropriate.

It is proposed that that consultation be undertaken by e-mail.

Conclusion

The Report invites the Committee to consider whether to respond to the recent consultation launched by the LGA into its draft model Member Code of Conduct.

Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Local Government Association Draft Model Code of Conduct
Appendix B	Local Government Association Draft Model Code of Conduct Consultation Questions

Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Report to Audit Committee 18 November 2019 – "Code of Conduct Working Group Report"	Democratic Services
Report to County Council 11 December 2019 – "Members' Code of Conduct"	Democratic Services

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