

Report sponsor: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources
Report author: Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services

A Review of the Local Government Ethical Standards Report

Purpose

- 1.1 The Standards Committee considered the Local Government Ethical Standards report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life at its meeting on 22 October 2019.
- 1.2 Members considered the list of recommendations and the list of best practice, contained within the Committee on Standards in Public Life report.
- 1.3 Members resolved to agree that the Monitoring Officer should consider the list of recommendations and the list of best practice contained within the report, with a view to bringing a report to the next meeting of the Standards Committee with any relevant recommendations.
- 1.4 The list of recommendations and the list of best practice from the report, along with the Monitoring Officers comments and recommendations are attached at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider the Monitoring Officer's comments and recommendations.
- 2.2 To recommend to Council any further changes to the Code of Conduct or Councillor Complaints Procedure considered necessary.

Reasons

- 3.1 To give the Standards Committee the opportunity to consider the list of recommendations and the list of best practice for local authorities set out in the review of local government ethical standards, published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, along with the Monitoring Officers comments and recommendations.
- 3.2 To provide the Standards Committee with the opportunity to recommend any changes to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and to the Councillor Complaints Procedure

Supporting information

- 4.1 A Report on Updates to codes and protocols relating to councillor conduct and use of Council resources went to Council on 25 September 2019.
- 4.2 Changes to the Councillors' Code of Conduct were approved by Council.
- 4.3 Council requested that the Standards Committee conduct a full review of the Local Government Ethical Standards report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, with a view to recommending any further changes to the Code of Conduct or Councillor Complaints Procedure considered necessary.
- 4.4 Local Government Ethical Standards Report
www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethical-standards-report
- 4.5 Appendix 1 – list of recommendations from the Local Government Ethical Standards report, along with the Monitoring Officers comments.
- 4.6 Appendix 2 – list of best practice from the Local Government Ethical Standards report, along with the Monitoring Officers comments.
- 4.7 Appendix 3 - Councillors' Code of Conduct.
- 4.8 Appendix 4 - Procedures for the Assessment and Review of Allegations of Breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 None.

Other options

- 6.1 To take no action.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None.

Legal implications

- 8.1 None. Our procedures are a matter of local choice.

Other significant implications

- 9.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Emily Feenan - Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	16/03/20
Report sponsor		
Other(s)		

Background papers:	Local Government Ethical Standards Report
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - list of recommendations from the Local Government Ethical Standards report, along with the Monitoring Officers comments
	Appendix 2 - list of best practice from the Local Government Ethical Standards report, along with the Monitoring Officers comments
	Appendix 3 - Councillors' Code of Conduct
	Appendix 4 – Procedures for the Assessment and Review of Allegations of Breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct