

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

## **CSPL Local Government Ethical Standards 15 Best Practice Recommendations**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 The Standards Committee considered the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) Local Government Ethical Standards report at its meetings on 22 October 2019 and 7 July 2020.
- 1.2 Members considered the list of recommendations and the list of best practice recommendations, contained within the CSPL report.
- 1.3 In that report, the CSPL undertook to follow up the best practice recommendations with local authorities in 2020.
- 1.4 In September 2020 the Chair of the CSPL wrote to the Council's Chief Executive, seeking an update on the Council's progress against the best practice recommendations.
- 1.5 The Council's draft response is attached at Appendix 1, for consideration and comment by the Committee.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To consider the Council's progress against the CSPL best practice recommendations.
- 2.2 To recommend to Council any further changes to the Councillors' Code of Conduct or Councillor Complaints Procedure considered necessary.

### **Reasons**

- 3.1 To give the Standards Committee the opportunity to consider the Council's progress against the CSPL best practice recommendations for local authorities set out in the review of local government ethical standards, published by the CSPL.
- 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 CSPL, 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethical-standards-report)
- 4.5 Appendix 1 – list of best practice recommendations from the CSPL Local Government Ethical Standards report, along with comments relating to the Council's progress against them.
- 4.6 Councillors' Code of Conduct – attached at Item 6 of this agenda.
- 4.7 Procedures for the Assessment and Review of Allegations of Breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct – attached at item 6 of this agenda.

## **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.

## **Climate implications**

- 9.1 None.

## Other significant implications

10.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Alex Hough – Acting Head of Democracy	26/10/2020
Background papers: List of appendices:	Local Government Ethical Standards Report Appendix 1 - list of best practice recommendations from the CSPL Local Government Ethical Standards report and comments relating to the Council's progress against them	