

Report to Standards Committee

Subject: LGA Consultation on the Model Code of Conduct

Date: 27 August 2020

Author: Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services

Purpose

To update Standards Committee on the LGA consultation on the Model Code of Conduct.

Recommendation

THAT the report be noted.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Committee on Standards in Public Life Report – Review of Local Government Ethical Standards report recommended that the Local Government Association (LGA) should create an updated model Code of Conduct for Members in consultation with representative bodies of councillors and officers of all tiers of local government.
- 1.2 At the last meeting of Standards Committee the model Code was being drafted and was expected to be considered by the LGA Executive on 12 March. At that time, an indicative timetable for consultation was 16 March to 24 April; with the final Code to be approved and launched at the end of June 2020. In light of the indicative timescales Standards Committee agreed to set up a working group to consider the draft model Code and delegated authority was given to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with that working group to prepare the final consultation response.
- 1.3 Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the consultation was delayed, but has run for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August. A copy of the draft Code is attached at Appendix 1 and the consultation questions at Appendix 2. A number of workshops have been hosted by the LGA to provide the opportunity to find out about the background and reasoning

behind the drafting of the Code and ask questions, give opinions and make suggestions for alterations to the draft code. The Monitoring Officer and deputy Monitoring Officer attended one of the workshops on 29 July 2020.

- 1.4 It is understood that the feedback from the consultation will help the LGA develop a final draft, which will be reviewed by the LGA's Executive Advisory Board before being presented to the next LGA General Assembly expected to be held in the Autumn of 2020.
- 1.5 The working group comprising Cllrs Boyle, Hope, Murray and Towsey-Hinton, Rosalie Hawkes and John Baggaley met on 12 August 2020 and discussed the Council's response to the consultation. A copy of the final response will be circulated to all members of the Standards Committee for information.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Standards Committee note the contents of the report.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Not to note the report.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft LGA model Code of Conduct
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – LGA Consultation questions

9 Background Papers

9.1 None.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 13 August 2020

Drafted by the Monitoring Officer