

Report to Standards Committee

Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct for Members

Report of: Director of Legal Services

22 April 2021

Summary

To update the Committee on the publication of the LGA Model Code of Conduct for Members

Recommendations

1. To note the report
2. To discuss the proposed Code and whether any recommendations should be made to full Council.

1.0 Background

- 1.2 The Local Government Association (LGA) has produced a updated code of conduct for members for consideration by each authority. The new LGA Model Code is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. For ease of reference our Code of Conduct for Members is attached as Appendix 2.

2.0 Comments on the LGA Model Code.

- 2.1 The new LGA Model code is relatively straightforward to follow. The draft code has had a mixed response from some councils who have indicated they do not propose to adopt it as published as they prefer their own code.
- 2.1 Key points to note from the Standards Section of the LGA model code include that it:

- aims to clarify when the code will apply
- makes it a requirement to comply with any sanction imposed following a finding that the code has been breached. At present as members will be aware sanctions for breach of the Members Code of Conduct are very limited.
- Sets the threshold for registration of Gifts and hospitality at £50

2.2 Appendix B of the LGA Model Code sets out the requirements in relation to registration and declaration of Interests. This is a different approach from the current code which refers to a personal and/or prejudicial interests and requirements to disclose in those circumstances.

3.0 Next Steps

The views of the members of the Standards Committee are sought on the new code before consideration by full Council.

4.0 Recommendations

The recommendations appear at the front of this report.

Appendices

1. LGA Model Code of Conduct
2. Members Code of Conduct