

COMMITTEE: STANDARDS

DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2016

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

REPORT BY: SERVICE DIRECTOR (HR) & MONITORING OFFICER

CONTACT OFFICER: ANGELA CLARIDGE EXT 6291

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL

CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING

OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. For Standards Committee to review the existing Members Code of Conduct, and suggest any revisions for submission to Full Council for approval.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Committee is recommended to request the Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the Members Code of Conduct for subsequent approval at Full Council.**

BACKGROUND

3. Under the Localism Act 2011 Councils are required to adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity. The Localism Act requires that a Member Code of Conduct must, “when viewed as a whole” be “consistent with the following principles”:

- selflessness;
- integrity;
- objectivity;
- accountability;
- openness;
- honesty;
- leadership..

4. In addition, the Localism Act requires that a Member Code of Conduct must include “the provision the authority considers appropriate in respect of the registration in its register, and disclosure, of – pecuniary interests; and interests other than pecuniary interests.”

REPORT

5. The existing Members Code of Conduct was approved by Full Council on 20 February 2013.
6. The Code is now three years old and the Committee is asked to review its suitability and suggest any amendments. A suggested amended Code is included in appendix A – the amendments are included as “track changes”.
7. The three Council Group Leaders have been consulted and are keen to make it specific in the policy when an elected member is operating in the capacity as an elected member, and when it’s a personal capacity.
8. Additionally further clarification is included relating to declaring interests.

APPENDIX

9. The following appendix is attached to this report:

Appendix A – Draft Code of Conduct for Members & Co-opted Members

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

None