

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	15 MARCH 2018	5
CONSULTATION ON ETHICAL STANDARDS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The Committee on Standards in Public Life has recently announced that it is undertaking a review of local government ethical standards. It is inviting responses to its consultation particularly from local authorities and elected members. Members are invited to consider holding a workshop to respond to the consultation. Members are also invited to considering holding the workshop together with representatives from Blackpool Council's Standards Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To hold a workshop with representatives of the committee, to respond to the consultation;
2. To agree to hold a workshop with representatives from Blackpool Council's Standards Committee to formulate a response; and
3. To invite the Independent Persons to the workshop.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None relating to this matter.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

1. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has recently announced that it is undertaking a review of local government ethical standards.
2. The review will consider all levels of local government and its terms of reference are to:

- examine the structures, processes and practices in local government in England for:
 - maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors
 - investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process
 - enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct
 - declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest
 - whistleblowing
 - assess whether the existing structures, processes and practices are conducive to high standards of conduct in local government
 - make any recommendations for how they can be improved
 - note any evidence of intimidation of councillors, and make recommendations for any measures that could be put in place to prevent and address such intimidation
3. The consultation is particularly aimed at local authorities and standards committees, local authority members and local authority officials, as well as local government thinktanks, academics and representative bodies.
 4. The review into ethical standards is the first large scale review of such matters since the abolition of the Standards Board for England in 2012 and the implementation of the new standards framework which replaced the Board.
 5. The committee is therefore asked to consider the importance of submitting a comprehensive response to the consultation, and it is suggested that holding a workshop with members of the committee to formulate the response, may be the best approach.
 6. As members will be aware, Fylde has a shared Code of Conduct with Blackpool Council and shared Independent Persons. It is therefore considered appropriate to consider inviting members of Blackpool's Standards Committee and the Independent Persons, to the consultation workshop.
 7. A similar approach was adopted when the Code of Conduct was reviewed in 2015, and it was considered by all involved to be a success.
 8. Members may access the consultation via the following link;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-ethical-standards-stakeholder-consultation>

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising from this report
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		