

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	26 NOVEMBER 2020	13
<b>REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

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

### SUMMARY

To provide an update on the work to date regarding the revised code of conduct.

As a part of the work undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on ethical standards in local government, it was recommended to the Local Government Association that it should create an updated model code of conduct, in consultation with representative bodies and councillors and officers of all tiers of local government.

Accordingly, it has produced a model code and consulted on this over the summer months. This work has not been finalised at this point, but it is felt important to draw members attention to this area of work.

### RECOMMENDATION

To note the progress being made by the Local Government Association on developing a national model code of conduct and that members be kept informed of the development of this work and invited to consider the adoption of such a model code once available.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

### REPORT

1. In January 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life produced a report on local government ethical standards.
2. One of the recommendations to come from that report was a review of the current model member code of conduct.

3. This committee has previously considered the report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life and committed to work with recommended good practice and await further guidance with respect to other recommendations made.
4. One of the recommendations was that the Local Government Association (LGA) that it should create an updated model code of conduct, in consultation with representative bodies and councillors and officers of all tiers of local government.
5. The LGA has undertaken much consultative work on the current model code, holding workshops nationally and a range of other events.
6. The LGA has sought, through this work, to address issues of abuse and intimidation experienced by members, especially through social media. These issues being particularly heightened during this current period where most of the communication with residents and other members is taking place online and remotely.
7. As a result of the work of the LGA, a draft model code of conduct has been produced and the LGA ran a consultation of this new draft code from June – August 2020.
8. A workshop was held over the summer to consider the draft Code and give an indicative consultation response.
9. The workshop comprised of the Chairman, Councillor Singleton, of the Audit & Standards Committee, Tracy Manning – Monitoring Officer, Ian Curtis – Head of Governance together with colleagues from the Blackpool Standards Committee, Councillor Kath Benson – Vice Chair of Standards Committee, Councillor Ivan Taylor – Deputy Leader, Mark Towers – Monitoring Officer and Lorraine Hurst – Deputy Monitoring Officer at Blackpool Council. The Independent Person present was Helen Broughton. The Vice Chairman of the Audit & Standards committee, Councillor Gaunt, was unable to attend the workshop.
10. The response formulated is appended at the end of this report. The LGA's draft model code of conduct can be accessed via this link <https://www.local.gov.uk/local-government-association-model-member-code-conduct-consultation>

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	No implications arising from this report
Legal	No implications arising from this report
Community Safety	No implications arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications arising from this report

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
LGA Model Code	2020	<a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/local-government-association-model-member-code-conduct-consultation">https://www.local.gov.uk/local-government-association-model-member-code-conduct-consultation</a>

Attached documents

Appendix 1 – LGA Draft Model Code of Conduct

Appendix 2 – Consultation Responses