STANDARDS & ETHICS COMMITTEE – 9 JULY 2020

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

LEAD OFFICER:  Sarah Pemberton, Director of Corporate Resources and Commercial Strategy

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WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE?

The Local Government Association has issued a draft Model Code of Conduct for consultation with Local authorities. The consultation period will run until 17th August 2020.

The Standards and Ethics Committee is responsible for all matters relating to the Code of Conduct.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That

a)  the report be noted; and

b)  members are invited to give their feedback on the Draft Model Code of Conduct to the Monitoring Officer by no later than Friday 24th July 2020.

1.  BACKGROUND

1.1  The review on Local Government Ethical Standards was published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on 30 January 2019. A report on this was put before the Audit Committee on 10th April 2019.

1.2  The Local Government Association is now reviewing and updating the member model code of conduct, which is suggested good practice and councils may adopt this code or their own local code.

1.3  The review is being undertaken in response to the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and to rising local government concern about the increasing incidence of public, member-
to-member and officer/member intimidation and abuse and overall behavioural standards and expectations in public debate, decision making and engagement.

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 The Model Member Code is designed to aid members in all tiers of local government model the behaviours and high standards that anyone would expect from a person holding public office.

2.2 This consultation addresses key areas in which the LGA would like a view on to help finalise the Code. It is aimed at councillors and officers from all tiers of local government.

2.3 The draft Model is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

2.4 The Committee’s feedback is welcomed and will be incorporated into the Councils response.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to assist councillors in modelling the behaviour that is expected of them, and to set out the type of conduct against which appropriate action may be taken. It sets out the conduct expected of all members and a minimum set of obligations relating to conduct. The overarching aim is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of member and local government.

4. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

4.1 The Monitoring Officer’s comments are: Contained in report.

4.2 The Legal Officer’s comments are: No legal issues arise from this report

4.3 The Section 151 Officer’s comments are: No financial issues arising from these recommendations.
LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Draft Model Code of Conduct