

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Standards and Ethics Committee - 16 September 2021

Report Title

Standards and Ethics Committee – LGA Guidance on the model Coded of Conduct

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

N/A

Report Author(s)

Stuart Fletcher, Service Manager (Commercial and Property)
01709 823523
stuart.fletcher@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

A report

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1) Note the content of the report and Guidance and the ways in which this is to be disseminated to Borough Councillors and Parish and Town Councillors.
- 2) Make suggestions as to any other ways in which the Guidance may be communicated to relevant members.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Guidance on Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Standards and Ethics Committee - LGA Guidance on the model Coded of Conduct

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of its response to the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life Local Government Ethical Standards 2019, the Local Government Association has issued guidance (Appendix 1) on the Model Council Code of Conduct which they developed and published in December 2020, and which was subsequently adopted by the Council.
- 1.2 The consultation responses to the LGA in respect of the Code of Conduct asked for supporting guidance to help to understand some of the key provisions in greater depth with examples and case illustrations, and this is provided within the Guidance.
- 1.3 The training which is to be undertaken later this year in respect of the Code of Conduct and the use of Social Media by Councillors will refer to and take the LGA guidance into account. A link to the guidance is to be included in the forthcoming edition of the member bulletin, as well as on the Council website and further the Guidance is being sent to all Parish Clerks for further distribution to Parish and Town Councillors.
- 1.4 Members of the Committee are asked for suggestions as to any further ways in which the content of the guidance may be communicated to relevant Members.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The key issues are set out above.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The recommended proposals are set out above.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 A comprehensive consultation exercise was undertaken by the LGA when preparing the model Code of Conduct, which resulted in the preparation of this Guidance.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

Appropriate training, taking into account the Guidance is to be provided in October/November 2021.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 None

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council and the Standards and Ethics Committee have a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. The Guidance will assist Standards and Ethics Committee in this complying with this duty.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

None

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

None

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

None

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 The Guidance is relevant to Parish and Town Council members and as such appropriate training is to be provided to them, taking into account the Guidance.

12. Risks and Mitigation

None

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services

Report Author: Stuart Fletcher, Service Manager (Commercial and Property)
01709 823523 - stuart.fletcher@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).