

Code of Conduct Consultation 2020

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Purpose of the Report

A consultation paper has been recently issued by the Local Government Association (LGA) to review the current model member Code of Conduct, as recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report into **Local Government Ethical Standards**.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is proposing a new Model Member Code of Conduct as part of its work on supporting the sector to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance.

A copy of the consultation documents are attached.

Public Interest

This report is to consider the District Council's response to the Local Government Association's (LGA) consultation to review the current model member code of conduct.

Recommendation

The Standards Committee considers the proposed responses and makes representations to LGA as set out below.

Background

The LGA held an event on **Civility in Public Life** with a range of stakeholders at the end of 2019 and three consultation workshops at the beginning of 2020. Their consultants have also examined examples of good practice, both in local government and other professions. The LGA **consultation draft model member code of conduct** is the result of this initial work. It is the intention to create additional guidance, working examples and explanatory text. They are now seeking comment on the consultation draft. They have particularly asked if respondents feel it stands up to the new ways of working that have been introduced and gives enough of a steer on social media and online activity.

With more communication taking place remotely and online between members and residents, particularly through social media, there may be more difficult and heated discussions as some seek to express the fear, frustration and heightened emotions they are experiencing at this time. However, abuse, threatening and intimidatory communications continue to be unacceptable, and the LGA have sought to address these issues in the draft code.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/code-conduct-consultation-2020>

Report Detail

The consultation on the draft member code of conduct will run for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August. We hope this will provide officers and members with enough time to reflect on the draft model member code of conduct and provide the LGA with feedback whilst they continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

To facilitate the consultation we have produced an [online consultation questionnaire](#). The questionnaire is designed for both members and officers.

We are also happy to receive narrative responses from councils or stakeholder groups via email ModelCode@local.gov.uk. Please also email here if you have any questions regarding the consultation and/or code of conduct work.

If you are interested in discussing the draft code in more detail, we will be holding a number of webinars over the Summer. The details will be on our [LGA events page](#).

The feedback from the consultation will help us develop a final draft, which will be reviewed by the LGA's Executive Advisory Board before being presented to the next LGA General Assembly, which we hope will be held in the Autumn of 2020.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Legal Implications

None

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

There are no specific environmental implications arising from the subject matter of this report

Equalities and Diversity Implications

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising from the subject matter of this report

Background Papers

Council Constitution – Member Code of Conduct
