

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 30 JULY 2020**

**CONSULTATION ON LGA MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

**REPORT OF ANTHEA LOWE – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RAE EVANS – CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider and comment on the Local Government Association’s draft Model Member Code of Conduct.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that the Standards Committee:-**

- 2.1 Considers the draft model Member Code of Conduct prepared by the Local Government Association attached as Appendix 2;**
- 2.2 Notes the comments of the Monitoring Officer in response to the consultation questionnaire created by the LGA as shown in Appendix 3;**
- 2.3 Provides comments to the Monitoring Officer to enable a consultation response to be submitted on behalf of Telford and Wrekin Council; and**
- 2.4 Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, to finalise and submit a consultation response on behalf of Telford and Wrekin Council.**

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	<b>Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	The Model Code of Conduct supports the Co-operative Council values of Openness & Honesty, Ownership, Fairness & Respect and Involvement which underpin all that the Council does.

	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The proposals contained in this report will impact upon Members as the Code of Conduct is intended to provide a framework within which Members should operate.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	Upon introduction of a final model Code of Conduct released by the Local Government Association.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	No	There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations listed within Section 2 of this report. TAS 22.7.2020
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to have a Members Code of Conduct. The Council has a duty to promote high standards of behaviour of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council. AL 22.7.2020
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	No	N/A
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	N/A

#### 4. **Background**

- 4.1 In January 2019, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) published its report *Local Government Ethical Standards* (copy at **Appendix 1** for completeness). That report was considered by the Standards Committee in June 2019. One of the recommendations made by the CSPL was:-

*The Local Government Association should create an updated model code of conduct, in consultation with representative bodies of councillors and officers of all tiers of local government*

- 4.2 The LGA has now published a draft Model Member Code of Conduct (attached at **Appendix 2**) and has commenced consultation with all tiers of local government. Consultation opened on Wednesday 8 June 2020 and will close on Monday 17 August 2020. To assist with responding to the consultation, the LGA has also created a consultation questionnaire. Members of the Standards Committee are asked to consider how they wish to respond to the consultation and to authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, to submit a response on behalf of the Council.

It should be noted that members can respond to the consultation in their individual capacity should they choose to do so.

- 4.3 Attached at **Appendix 3** are the specific questions that the LGA has asked as part of the consultation. Members will see that a column has been added which details, where relevant, observations from the Monitoring Officer. It should be noted that a number of seminars are being held regarding the draft model Code of Conduct with the Monitoring Officer attending one of these sessions between publication of these papers and the meeting take place. A verbal update will be given at the meeting should this be necessary.
- 4.4 The Council's current Code of Conduct for Members is very much based upon the seven principles of public life (known as the Nolan Principles) and which are set out in legislation. The Code provides very little guidance as to the meaning of these principle and what might constitute a breach. A copy of the Council's current Code of Conduct is attached at **Appendix 4**.
- 4.5 Members should note that, following the publication of the CSPL's report in January 2019, the government confirmed that it would provide parliamentary time to consider its recommendations. Some of the recommendations made by the CSPL require legislative changes – the government has not yet considered the report of CSPL and, therefore, it is not yet known if the necessary legislative changes will be made.

## **5. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Standards Committee minutes 4 February 2020 – for approval at this meeting.

[Standards Committee minutes 25 June 2019](#)

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Committee on Standards in Public Life Local Government Ethical Standards report dated January 2019](#)

Report prepared by Anthea Lowe, Associate Director: Policy & Governance, [anthea.lowe@telford.gov.uk](mailto:anthea.lowe@telford.gov.uk), 01952 383219