

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 13 JULY 2021

UPDATE ON MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

REPORT OF ANTHEA LOWE – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RAE EVANS – CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report is intended to provide an update to Members of the Committee on the Model Code of Conduct following final comments received at the last meeting of the Committee and in advance of a recommendation being made to full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Standards Committee recommend to full Council that the draft Code of Conduct as attached at Appendix A to this report.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	As the framework for governing Member conduct, the Code of Conduct underpins all of the Council's priorities.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Anticipated date of adoption is the date of the first full Council meeting of the municipal year (date to be confirmed at the Annual Council meeting).	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising

		from the recommendations in this report.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Council is legally required to adopt a Code of Conduct for Members (including co-opted Members) of the authority . The code sets out conduct which is expected of members of the Council. The contents of this report will progress the adoption process and assist the Council in ensuring that such Code is up to date and easy to understand for both Members and members of the public. (AL 2/07/2021)
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 At the meetings of Standards Committee that took place on 24 March 2021 and 28 April 2021, Members considered the draft Model Code of Conduct prepared and published by the Local Government Association. Whilst Members understood the need for a model Code and largely agreed with the contents of the code as published, there were four areas where Members felt further work was required:-
- The financial limit in respect of gifts and hospitality;
 - The wording relating to the operation of the Code in respect of private matters;
 - The need to include reference to safeguarding duties of Members; and
 - The wording of the Code in relation to interests
- 4.3 Officers were asked to consider these matters and propose alternative wording and a report was presented to the meeting of 28 April 2021.
- 4.4 Following further comments at that meeting, additional changes have been made to the model Code of Conduct. The updated version is attached at **Appendix A** to this report. The changes that have been made are shown in red.
- 4.5 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Standards Committee is required to recommend a Code of Conduct to full Council. If the attached Appendix is approved, it is intended that it will be considered at the Council meeting scheduled for 22 July 2021.

5. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of 24 March 2021

[\[https://democracy.telford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1161&MId=1761&Ver=4\]](https://democracy.telford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1161&MId=1761&Ver=4)

Minutes of the meeting of 28 April 2021 (to be approved at this meeting).

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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