

SUBJECT:	MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	CAROLYN WHEATER, CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider a revised version of the Member Code of Conduct, which incorporates aspects such as harassment, bullying, social media use and acting in an official capacity as recommended by the Ethics and Engagement Committee at its meeting on 14 March 2019.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Ethics and Engagement Committee at its meeting on 14 March 2019 considered a report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life following a review of standards arrangements in local government. The report comprised 26 recommendations to Government which the Committee on Standards in Public Life felt would enable councillors to be held account effectively and would enhance the fairness and transparency of the standards process. The report also contained examples of good practice following a number of cases studies from across the country.
- 2.2 It was resolved at the meeting on 14 March 2019 that a review of the Member Code of Conduct be undertaken and that its scope be widened to include aspects such as harassment, examples of bullying, links to official capacity and social media use. An extract of the minutes from this meeting are attached at Appendix B to this report.
- 2.3 The Council's City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer has undertaken a review of the Member Code of Conduct, in line with the resolution of the Ethics and Engagement Committee. A copy of the revised version of the Member Code of Conduct as attached at Appendix A to this report, with the main additions highlighted.

3. Organisational Impacts

3.1 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity

- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

These issues have been taking into consideration in the writing of this report.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the revised Member Code of Conduct be recommended to Council for approval.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? Two

List of Background Papers: None

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