

SUBJECT:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MODEL CODE OF MEMBER CONDUCT
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT AUTHOR:	CAROLYN WHEATER, MONITORING OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Ethics and Engagement Committee with an opportunity to consider the approved version of the Local Government Association Model Code of Member Conduct.

2. Background

- 2.1 A report by the Committee for Standards in Public life, published in 2019, outlined a detailed assessment of the Model Code of Member Conduct and recommended that this be reviewed. The Ethics and Engagement Committee considered this report at its meeting on 14 March 2019.
- 2.2 The Local Government Association undertook a review of the Model Code of Conduct and held a consultation for 10 weeks from 8 June 2020 to 17 August 2020. All members of the Ethics and Engagement Committee were invited to contribute to the consultation.
- 2.3 Feedback from the consultation assisted the development of the final version of the revised Model Code of Conduct, which had been reviewed by the Local Government Association's Executive Advisory Body prior to approval at the Association's General Assembly.
- 2.4 The final, approved, version of the Local Government Association Model Code of Member Conduct is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.5 Guidance has not yet been published to support implementation of the revised Model Code of Conduct, which is expected in the New Year. It was felt prudent, however, to provide the Ethics and Engagement Committee with an opportunity to review the new Model Code and recommend any amendments to the City Council's Code of Conduct.

3. City of Lincoln Council Code of Conduct

- 3.1 The Council has recently updated its Code of Conduct to specifically include reference to harassment and bullying, which were aspects highlighted in the Committee for Standards in Public Life report and the new Model Code of Conduct. A copy of the City of Lincoln Council's Code of Conduct is attached at Appendix B.

- 3.2 The Ethics and Engagement Committee is also invited to consider member training requirements associated with the Code of Conduct in terms of the way in which they receive training and how often this should be undertaken. Traditionally the Council's Monitoring Officer holds an annual member development session on the Code of Conduct and the declaration of interests, together with an induction session for newly elected members as part of their induction programme.
- 3.3 It is envisaged that, for a fair proportion of next year, training sessions and meetings will continue to be facilitated remotely. The Committee's view is therefore sought on aspects of remote training for the Code of Conduct, which could include e-learning in members' own time (if such a package exists) or direct training from the Monitoring Officer.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the new Local Government Association Model Code of Member Conduct be noted.
- 4.2 That consideration be given to any necessary amendments to the City of Lincoln Council's Code of Conduct.
- 4.3 That consideration be given to training associated with the Council's Code of Conduct for members.

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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