

# Audit and Standards Committee

## LGA Consultation Member Code of Conduct

20 July 2020

### Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee considers and comments on the draft model code of conduct
2. That the Strategic Director for Resources is authorised to make a response to the Local Government Association consultation which incorporates the comments of the Committee

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) has committed to reviewing 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 LGA held an event on [Civility in Public Life](#) with a range of stakeholders at the end of last year and three consultation workshops at the beginning of this year. Their consultants have also examined examples of good practice, both in local government and other professions.
- 1.2 The LGA [consultation draft model member code of conduct](#) (attached as Appendix 1) is the result of this initial work. The LGA intends to create additional guidance, working examples and explanatory text. The LGA has indicated that it would very much welcome comment on the consultation draft. It would particularly like to know if 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.
- 1.3 The consultation on the draft member code of conduct will run for 10 weeks from **Monday 8 June** until **Monday 17 August**.
- 1.4 To facilitate the consultation the LGA have produced an [online consultation questionnaire](#) (Questions are reproduced at Appendix 2).
- 1.5 The LGA are also happy to receive narrative responses from councils or stakeholder groups via email [ModelCode@local.gov.uk](mailto:ModelCode@local.gov.uk).

### 2. Financial Implications

None

### 3. Environmental Implications

None.

### 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The role of councillor in all tiers of local government is a vital part of our system of democracy. In voting for a local councillor, the public is imbuing that person and position with their trust. As such, it is important that councillors can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. The conduct of an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. The role of councillor should be one that people aspire to and want to participate with. It is important that we continue to attract individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances who understand the responsibility they take on and are motivated to make a positive difference to their local communities.
- 4.2 All councils are required to have a local Member Code of Conduct. This Model Member Code of Conduct has been developed by the LGA in consultation with the local government sector and is offered as a template for councils to adopt in whole and/or with local amendments. The LGA indicates that it will undertake an annual review of the Code to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose, particularly with respect to advances in technology, social media and any relevant changes in legislation.

## 5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Feedback from the consultation will help the LGA 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 they hope will be held in the Autumn of 2020.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 Draft Model Code of Conduct  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/LGA%20Model%20Member%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf>
- Appendix 2 Consultation Questions

## Background Papers

- [Local Government Ethical Standards Report](#)
- [Civility in Public Life event](#)

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

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Other members: