

## Standards Committee

<b>Meeting or Decision Maker:</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Date:</b>	19 October 2020
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Response to Committee on Standards in Public Life on progress made on best practice points made in January 2019
<b>Report of:</b>	Tasnim Shawkat, Monitoring Officer

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 21 March 2019 and 12 July 2019 the Committee discussed reports on the outcome of the review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) on Local Government Ethical Standards, published in January 2019.
- 1.2. The review made 26 recommendations and 15 best practice points to ethical standards in local government. The best practice recommendations represent a benchmark for ethical practice which the CSPL expects any local authority should implement.
- 1.3. The CSPL undertook to follow up the best practice recommendations with Local Authorities this year. An email was sent to all Chief Executives on asking for an update on progress against the best practice recommendations by 30 November 2020.
- 1.4. The CSPL has provided a template for Local Authorities to complete which they intend to publish on their website in the new year.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. For the Committee to comment on the proposed response to the CSPL on the progress the Council has made in relation to implementing the best practice points.

### **3. Background information**

- 3.1. In January 2019 the CSPL published a report following its review of ethical standards in local government. The report reinforced the high standards of conduct required in local government to protect the integrity of decision-making, maintain public confidence and safeguard local democracy.
- 3.2. The report set out a list of best practice recommendations which Local Authorities should consider as a benchmark of good ethical practice and implement.
- 3.3. A list of the best practice points and the Council's position is set out in Appendix One of this report. This will help formalise the response to the CSPL.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1. There are no financial implications for this report.

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Council and individual Members are required to promote and maintain high standards of ethical behaviour as is required under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act") Under section of the 28 of the Act, the Council must have in place "arrangements " under which allegations that a member or co-opted member of the Council, or of a Committee of Sub-Committee of the Council, has failed to comply with Code of Conduct can be investigated and decisions made on such allegations.
- 5.2 In order to implement some of the recommendations amendments would have to be made to sections 27, 28 and 31 Localism Act 2011. In addition, amendments would have to be made to The Relevant Authorities Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

## Appendix One

Response by the Monitoring Officer to the LGA draft Model Code of Conduct

### 6. Background Papers

[Report to Standards Committee on 21 March 2019 re CSPL review](#)

[Report to Standards Committee on 12 July 2019 re CSPL review](#)

**If you have any queries about this report please contact: Hazel Best,  
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