

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**2 JULY 2020**

**GOVERNANCE, ETHICS & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – CONSULTATION  
ON A MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee of the Consultation launched by the Local Government Association on the draft Member Code of Conduct which will run for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August 2020.

**2. Information and Analysis**

At its meeting on 25 February 2019, the Committee (then the Standards Committee) considered the findings of the review of the Committee on Standards in Public Life dated January 2019. The purpose of the review was for the Committee to assure themselves that the current standards framework was conducive to promoting and maintaining the high standards expected by the public.

The review identified some specific areas of concern and identified a number of risks in respect of the current rules around conflicts and declaring of interests, gifts and hospitality and the increased complexity of local government decision making.

The Committee made 26 recommendations and identified 15 recommendations of best practice to improve ethical standards in local government. The recommendations included the suggestion for the Local Government Association (LGA) to create an updated Model Code of Conduct to enhance consistency and the quality of local authority codes.

The LGA has now developed a Model Code of Conduct and has indicated that it intends to create additional guidance, working examples and explanatory text. The LGA has also launched consultation on the draft Member Code of Conduct which will run for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August. The consultation details and questionnaire, together with a copy of the Model Code of Conduct can be accessed on line at <https://www.local.gov.uk/code-conduct->

[consultation-2020](#). A copy of the Model Code of Conduct is also attached at Appendix 1.

### **3. Legal Considerations**

Requirements to maintain high ethical standards for members, together with the requirement to adopt a code of conduct, was introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

### **4. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have also been considered: financial, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, human rights, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

### **5. Officer recommendation**

That the Committee notes the consultation and draft model code of conduct for elected members launched and prepared by the LGA.

**Simon Hobbs**  
**Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer**