

**Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer**

**THE DRAFT MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The consultation on the draft model code of conduct has finally got underway. This report reflects the need for the Council to respond to the consultation which runs till 17 August 2020 and so will have passed before the next meeting of this Committee.

**2. Further Detail**

Attached at appendices 1 and 2 is the draft model code of conduct and the consultation questions in pdf which has to be completed online hence the watermark. Rather than invite the Committee to consider each question, a response outline is attached at appendix 3.

Key issues in the new draft are:

- It is all written in the second person “you must ...” and is much shorter
- Sanctions have been extended a bit but are still broadly as before with a maximum sanction of 2 months’ committee suspension
- The duty of showing respect is replaced with a duty of being civil
- Members are presumed to be acting in their official capacity unless the contrary is shown
- Internal Review Meetings are proposed to handle review of standards decisions internally

Members are invited to approve the Council’s response with any changes or additions. This does not preclude individual responses by Members or officers but enables a corporate response to be provided.

Attached at appendix 4 is the Local Government Ethical Standards Committee suggested best practice for local authorities.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to:**

- 1. RESOLVE that the Council’s response to the Consultation on the Draft Model Code of Conduct be approved.**
- 2. CONSIDER the best practice guidance and RESOLVE accordingly.**

Background papers

Nil