

Standards Committee

24 October 2018

Report title	Councillor Code of Conduct and Protocol for Councillor and Employee Relations	
Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson, Governance	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee	Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
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Report to be considered by	Council	7 November 2018

Recommendations for decision:

The Standards Committee is recommended to recommend that Council:

1. Approve the revised Councillor Code of Conduct.
2. Approve the revised Protocol for Councillor/Employee Relations.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposed changes made to the Councillor Code of Conduct and Protocol for Councillor/Employee Relations for approval by the Council. It is recommended that the Council agrees and adopts the revised Councillor Code of Conduct and Protocol for Councillor/Employee Relations.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Special Advisory Group received a report on the 24 November 2017 recommending that the Constitution be refreshed to remove repetition, update terminology and, where possible, simplify the wording to make it clearer.
- 2.2 The revised constitution was approved was approved by Council on the 13 December 2017 and it was noted that further amendments to the Constitution would be presented in 2018 .
- 2.3 The Councillor Code of Conduct and Protocol for Councillor and Employee Relations were not updated during the 2017 review, it was therefore deemed appropriate to update both during this review in order to ensure consistency throughout the Constitution.

3.0 Reasons for updating Councillor Code of Conduct

- 3.1 The Councillor Code of Conduct has been revised to include the Nolan Principles, which had previously featured in a separate section of the Constitution. The Nolan Principles were established in 1995 in order to improve standards of behaviour in public life and apply to anyone who works as a public office holder.
- 3.2 The proposed revised code provides greater clarification when the code is applicable, expectations of conduct and rules of conduct
- 3.3 The proposed revised code re-enforces that it is the responsibility of each individual Councillor to declare a relevant interest at any Council or Committee meeting.
- 3.4 The proposed revised Code also seeks to provide further guidance and advice to Councillors when declaring any relevant interests to the Monitoring Officer.
- 3.5 The proposed revised Councillor Code of Conduct aims to provide greater transparency for Councillors on the standard of behaviour expected of them whilst fulfilling their commitments as elected members and to the public also.

4.0 Reasons for updating Protocol for Councillor and Employee Relations

- 4.1 The revised Protocol for Councillor and Employee Relations proposes minor alterations, in order to broaden the purpose of the Protocol and provide further clarity to Councillors and Employees regarding their relations.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
[GE/09102018/A]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The Localism Act 2011 abolished the old National Code of Conduct for members. However, under s27(2) of the Act each council was under a duty to adopt a Code of Conduct and, although the precise form of the Code was to be up to each individual authority, s28(1) of the Act said that the Code had to be consistent with the Seven Principles of public Life (the 'Nolan Principles') and s28(2) said it must contain whichever provisions the authority considered appropriate with regard to registration and declaration of interests.
[RB/09102018/M]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

10.0 Corporate Landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 [Changes to the Constitution](#)

12.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Councillor Code of Conduct

Appendix 2 – Protocol for Councillor and Employee Relations