



City of Westminster

General Purposes Committee

Date: 11 September 2019

Classification: For General Release

Title: Amendment to the Members' Code of Conduct

Report of: Director of Law

Wards Involved: Not Applicable

Financial Summary: There are no financial implications

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Standards Committee have, following a review of the Local Government Ethical Standards by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL), approved amendments to the Code of Conduct for adoption by the full Council. The General Purposes Committee have responsibility for proposing changes to the Constitution to full Council and are asked to recommend the new Code to full Council for adoption and to amend the Constitution accordingly.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council be recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Members' Code of Conduct (**Appendix 1**) with effect from 19 September 2019 and to amend the Constitution accordingly.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Standards Committee, at its meeting on the 12th March 2019, considered a report by the Monitoring Officer on the key findings of the review by the CSPL on Ethical Standards in Local Government.

The report asked Members to:

- Note the 26 recommendations made by the review and the 15 best practice points.
- Note the Council already practices many of the recommendations which do not require legislative changes as a matter of good practice.

- To consider what further changes could be made to the Council's Code of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with complaints alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct, which would not require legislative change.
- 3.2 At the meeting Members discussed in detail some particular sections of the CSPL report including:
- Bullying and harassment
 - Role of Ward Councillors and Planning Committee Members in relation to planning matters (particularly in relation to the acceptance of gifts and hospitality)
- 3.3 At its next meeting on the 11th July 2019 the Standards Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer that set out recommended changes to the Members' Code of Conduct and Guidance to Members proposed by the CSPL on the above mentioned matters which it approved.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Council is required, under Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, to adopt a Code dealing with the conduct that is expected of Members and Co-opted Members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity. The Code must be consistent with the following principles: (a) selflessness; (b) Integrity; (c) Objectivity; (d) Accountability; (e) Openness; (f) Honesty; (g) Leadership. The Council must also ensure that its Code includes provision for the registration in its register and disclosure of (a) Pecuniary Interests and (b) interests other than Pecuniary Interests.
- 4.2 Officers confirm that in their view the proposed revised Code conforms with the requirements of the Localism Act as outlined in paragraph 4.1 above.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Other Implications: None

**If you have any questions about this report, or wish to inspect one of the background papers, please contact Reuben Segal: 7641 3160;
Email: rsegal@westminster.gov.uk**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1972 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Standards Committee Report:
Local Government Ethical Standards –
Implementation of Recommendations of the CSPL – 11 July 2019