



Audit and Standards Committee Report

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Date: 25th March 2021

Subject: Model Code of Conduct and Code of Conduct Training for Members

Author of Report: Sarah Cottam / Abby Brownsword

Summary: To provide members the updated Members Code of Conduct, following agreement that the Council would adopt the model code of conduct incorporating elements of the current code of conduct.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to agree the updated Members' Code of Conduct.

The Committee is asked to agree the proposals for the Member Development Training Programme.

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
NO - Cleared by: Dave Phillips
Legal Implications
YES/NO - Cleared by: Gillian Duckworth
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES/NO - Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
None
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Member
Councillor Terry Fox, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The LGA has published a new Model Code of Conduct for councils to consider using.
- 1.2 The model code strengthens the best practise around bullying and harassment and use of social media.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer at its meeting in February 2021 where consideration was given to the new model code of conduct recently issued by the Local Government Association (LGA).
- 2.2 The Committee had approved a revised Code of Conduct for members at its meeting in (November/December 2020?) and this was subsequently approved by full Council in January 2021.
- 2.3 At the meeting in February the Committee agreed to adopt the Model Code of Conduct and incorporate some of the additional requirements set out in the Code approved by Council in January 2021.

3.0 MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

Including Legal, Financial and all other relevant implications (if any)

- 3.1 Appended to this report is a revised code of conduct based on the LGA's model code of conduct and incorporating the additional requirements as set out in the Councils existing Members' Code of Conduct. These additional requirements are shown in italics for ease of reference.

3.2 Code of Conduct Training for Members

- 3.2.1 The Committee also asked the Monitoring Officer to provide information about training for elected members on the Code of Conduct.
- 3.2.2 The Monitoring officer has agreed a programme of development for all members with the LGA for the new municipal year
- 3.2.3 The proposal is for the Council's Induction programme to be run in a similar format to last year and in addition dates will be agreed with each political group for specific training around the code of conduct. These group sessions will be run by the LGA and facilitated by a Member peer and an independent Monitoring Officer and would last approximately 1 ½ hours.

- 3.2.4 This would be closely followed by a session for all Members on local decision making to support Members with the introduction of Local Area Committees.
- 3.2.5 The intention is for the programme to consider the different roles of Members i.e. as part of the Council but also ward representatives and members of political groups. It will also consider Member/officer relationships and will be coupled with a complimentary training schedule for officers. The proposal allows for each group to help shape the rest of the development programme which will run until May 2022.
- 3.2.6 The rollout and timing of the proposal will be discussed and agreed with the Whips.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to agree the updated Members' Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to agree the proposals for the Member Development Training Programme.