



Audit and Standards Committee Report

Report of: Director of Legal and Governance

Date: 16 June 2022

Subject: Government response to The Committee on Standards in Public life's Review of Local Government Ethical Standards.

Author of Report: Sarah Hyde, Democratic Services Team Manager

Summary: On 18th March 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, published its formal response to the Committee for Standards in Public Life's Recommendations to Local Government Ethical Standards.

Recommendations: That members of Audit and Standards Committee are recommended to note the Government response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review of local government ethical standards.

Background Papers:

- Government response to the Committee for Standards in Public Life's Review of Local Government Ethical Standards.
 - The Committee for Standards in Public Life – Review of Local Government Ethical Standards Report published in January 2019
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Category of Report: OPEN

* Delete as appropriate

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
NO :
Legal Implications
NO - Cleared by: G Duckworth
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO
Climate Change Implications
NO
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 Policy Committee Chair (s)
Chair of Strategy and Resources
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life reviewed Local Government Ethical Standards in which they put forward 24 recommendations to the Government.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In January 2019, The Committee for Standards in Public Life issued its report and recommendations on ethical standards in Local Government. This report was published following extensive consultation with local authorities and the Audit and Standards Committee submitted a consultation response on behalf of Sheffield City Council.

2.2 In its published response, Government has provided its response to the numerous recommendations however it does not propose any immediate plans to amend or introduce revised legislation to address some of the issues raised, for example amendments to the Localism Act 2011, to sanctions and further clarity as regards disclosable pecuniary interests.

2.3 However, with regards to other recommendations, the Government does support and encourage local authorities to develop best practice, for example adoption of the LGA Model Code of Conduct, reporting and monitoring gifts and hospitality for councillors from the same source over a period of time and preparation of annual reports including code of conduct complaints.

2.4 The Government response can be found at the following link: [Government response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review of local government ethical standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/government-response-to-the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life-review-of-local-government-ethical-standards)

2.5 It should be noted that this committee has already responded positively to some of the recommendations for example adoption of the LGA Model Code of conduct into its own code. Sheffield City Council does already publish an annual standards report, provide clarity for councillors in respect of gifts and hospitality, and that the Committee is committed to encouraging our Parish and Town Councils to adopt our code which is based on the LGA Model Code of Conduct.

3.0 LEGAL/FINANCIAL/EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no legal or equality implications directly relating to this report however if there are potential future implications detailed within the Government Response and these will be addressed as and when necessary.

3.2 There are no financial implications.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That members of Audit and Standards Committee are recommended to note the Government response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review of local government ethical standards.