



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Standards Committee

1 October 2018

Revision to the Councillors' Code of Conduct

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report considers potential amendments to the Borough Council's Code of Conduct including the incorporation of a Social Media guide and recommends that revisions be drafted incorporating changes considered in this report, and then circulated to stakeholders for comment, with responses reported back to this committee.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that:

- a) The Committee consider and comment upon and the attached draft social media guidelines.
- b) The Committee consider the comment upon the attached draft revisions to the Code of Conduct.
- c) Follow comments from the committee, the draft code and social media guide be circulated appropriately to stakeholders for comment.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Committee concluded at its last meeting that a guide to assist councillors in the use of social media would be helpful, especially to new councillors.
- 3.2. The Borough Council has a duty to keep its Code of Conduct up to date (section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000) and it should include provisions which the Council considers appropriate in connection with the registration and disclosure of interests (both pecuniary and otherwise) under the provisions of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act.

4. Supporting Evidence

- 4.1 At the last meeting of the Standards Committee it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer would draft a social media guide and some proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct. Appendices 1 and 2 of this report contain the proposed draft Social Media guide and proposed amendments to the current Code of Conduct for discussion at the meeting. The Committee is

asked to review these items with a view to discussion and suggested amendments to the same.

5. Risk and Uncertainties

- 5.1 The key risk is achieving a consensus of opinion between stakeholders as to what represents a reasonable way of delivering the improvements contemplated by this report. It is hoped that the Committee can provide robust and reasoned conclusions for recommending the outcomes that it eventually puts forward for determination by Council.

6. Implications

6.6 Finance

It is intended that existing staff resources be used to consider and deliver these proposals.

6.7 Legal

The Legal background is considered above.

6.8 Corporate Priorities

Up to date constitutional documents seek to provide a robust method of supporting delivery of Council objectives

7. Other Implications

None

For more information contact:	Julian Crowle Monitoring Officer jcrowle@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices (if any):	Appendices: 1 - Social Media Draft 2 - Code of Conduct