



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Standards Committee

12th March 2019

Committee on Standards in Public Life – Review of Local Government Ethical Standards

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Summary

The Committee considered the findings of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, review of Local Government Ethical Standards at the meeting 12th March 2018. This report updates members on the resolutions made at the said meeting, in particular the revised documents to introduce the best practice and recommendations set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life report.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- a) The revisions to the Councillor Code of Conduct and Arrangements be recommended for adoption to Council, and
- b) The best practice recommendations set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life report be recommended for adoption to Council.

3. Details

- 3.1 On the 30th January 2019, The Committee on Standards in Public Life (“CSPL”) released its report: Local Government Ethical Standards. The CSPL review is across the breadth of local government in England, including Town and Parish Councils, Principal Authorities, Combined Authorities (including Metro Mayors) and the Greater London Authority (including the Mayor of London). CSPL is an independent advisory non-departmental public body.
- 3.2 The purpose of the review was to review the standards arrangements support and safeguard local democracy, maintain high standards of conduct, and to protect ethical practice in local government, particularly in light of the changes made by the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.3 At the meeting of the 12th March 2019, the Committee noted the report and resolved that steps be taken to introduce the best practice recommendations set out within it. The committee further resolved that a draft Code of Conduct be drafted for the next meeting of the Standards Committee to incorporate those recommendations in the report that do not require legislation.
- 3.4 The Monitoring Officer has accordingly revised the Councillor Code of Conduct, Arrangements and drafted criteria for assessment of complaints (the

Public Interest Test) to incorporate the recommendations and best practice contained within the report.

- 3.4 A copy of the full CSPL report is a background paper to this report and is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777315/6.4896_CO_CSPL_Command_Paper_on_Local_Government_Standards_v4_WEB.PDF

- 3.5 A copy of the Councillor Code of Conduct, Arrangements, Best Practice and drafted criteria for assessment of complaints, the Public Interest Test and social media protocol appears at Appendix 1.

- 3.6 The Monitoring Officer has also revised as requested by the Committee the complaint form. A copy of the form is attached at Appendix 2.

4. **Implications**

4.1. **Finance**

There are no direct financial implications.

4.2. **Equalities**

All complaints are considered with reference to the Council's Equality scheme

4.3. **Legal**

There are no specific legal implications.

4.4. **Corporate Priorities**

Delivery of an effective Standards regime supports the Council's priority of *'Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life –Our residents'*

4.5. **Other Implications**

None

| | |
|--|--|
| For more information contact: | Sanjit Sull Monitoring Officer ssull@rushcliffe.gov.uk |
| Background papers Available for Inspection: | None |
| List of appendices (if any): | Appendix 1 - Code of Conduct, Arrangements, Best Practice, social media protocol and Public Interest Test, Complaint Form Appendix 2 – Criteria for Complaint |