



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Liesl Hadgraft, Monitoring Officer	Standards Committee	19 November 2020

Model Code of Conduct update

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To provide an update on the preparation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) following the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) report published in January 2019.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1** Following approval by the Local Government Association (LGA) Board on 3 December 2020, the LGA will finalise and publish a MCC.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1** That members note the current progress of the MCC.
- 3.2** That a further report to consider any possible update to the council's Code of Conduct be taken to a subsequent meeting of the Standards Committee.

4. Background

- 4.1** The CSPL review of local government ethical standards published on 30 January 2019 was a major consultation exercise undertaken in the first half of 2018 investigating local government standards.

The review was critical of the model codes produced previously by the LGA and the lack of consistency in different councils' Codes of Conduct. The LGA was instructed to develop an updated MCC for councillors.

- 4.2** The LGA held an event on Civility in Public Life with a range of stakeholders at the end of 2019 and three consultation workshops of members and Monitoring Officers at the beginning of 2020 to discuss the approach and content of the revised MCC. LGA consultants also examined examples of good practice in local government and in other professions.

- 4.3** The result of this initial work was a draft MCC and an LGA consultation on that draft, facilitated by an online consultation questionnaire <https://www.local.gov.uk/local-government-association-model-member-code-conduct-consultation> which was available for all members and officers to complete for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August.
- 4.4** The LGA received over 1600 written responses to the consultation, including a response from Wyre and held four webinars, which attracted over 1000 participants who provided further comments, questions and feedback during those webinar sessions.
- 4.5** A consultation summary response showed overwhelming support for the MCC. However a number of issues in respect of the draft were raised, which included:
- whether written in first person or third person.
 - whether to use the term “respect” or “civility”.
 - more to be included on social media including confidentiality.
 - declaration of gifts e.g. whether £25 too low and £50 too high.
 - a need for accompanying guidance with examples.
 - Equality Act and obligation to comply.
 - obligation to cooperate with investigation.
 - compulsory training for members.
 - sanctions.
- 4.6** A stakeholder roundtable to discuss the response and next steps took place on 30 September 2020 and a revised draft MCC was considered at an LGA Councillors Forum on 22 October 2020.

The LGA will now review the draft in light of the discussion on 22 October 2020 and prepare a final MCC for submission to the LGA Board for approval on 3 December 2020, following which the approved MCC will be published.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Wyre Council last approved amendments to its own Code of Conduct at its meeting on 14 March 2019 and a revised Code taking effect from 2 May 2019 was included in Part 5.01 of the Constitution.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires that the Council promotes and maintains high standards of conduct by members of the authority and publishes a Code of

	Conduct. Parish and town councils in the Borough are required either to agree their own code or to adopt Wyre's. The Council must have procedures in place to deal with any breaches of the Code including any alleged breaches of the Code by parish and town councillors.
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Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	✓
equality and diversity	✓
sustainability	✓
health and safety	✓

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	✓
ICT	✓
data protection	✓

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

List of appendices