

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Standards Committee

18 November 2022

TITLE:	Review of the Code of Conduct
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Paul Roberts - Leader
CONTACT OFFICER:	Linden Vernon – Head of Democratic Services
WARDS INVOLVED:	Non-Specific

Appendices Attached – Proposed Revised Code of Conduct

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The reason for the report is to review the Council's Code of Conduct for councillors.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the proposed revised Code of Conduct be recommended to Council for adoption.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Council is required by the Localism Act 2011 to have in place a code of conduct for councillors. The current version of the code was last reviewed in 2019.
- 3.2 In accordance with best practice the Authority's Code of Conduct should be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to remain fit for purpose. Any amendments would be recommended for adoption by Full Council in advance of the all-out elections in May 2023.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)

Web Links and Background Papers

Appendix A – Proposed Revised Code of Conduct

Contact details

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4. Detail

4.1 Chapter 7 of The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the Authority when they are acting in that capacity. The Code should be consistent with the following 7 “Nolan” principles:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

4.2 The Council last reviewed its code in 2019 which was amended to include the following sections:

2.2 respect others and not bully (including any unwanted behaviour that makes someone feel intimidated, degraded, humiliated or offended) any person.

2.11 Co-operate fully with any investigation carried out in accordance with the Council’s Arrangements for dealing with Standards Complaints under the Localism Act 2011, and by not making any trivial or malicious allegations under those Arrangements.

4.3 In accordance with best practice the Authority’s Code of Conduct should be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to remain fit for purpose. Any amendments would be recommended for adoption by Full Council in advance of the all-out elections in May 2023.

4.4 The structure of the Council’s current code continues to operate well. However, it is proposed to revise the code to incorporate an element of the Local Government Association’s model code with regards to other interests and deciding when it is appropriate to withdraw from participating in respect of the matter relating to that interest. It is proposed to update paragraph 4.3 of the code as follows:

4.3 Where you have an interest in accordance with 4.1 and 4.2 above then you must consider whether the nature of that interest is so significant that you should withdraw from participating in respect of the matter relating to that interest. *In making this decision you should ask the following question:*

Would a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts believe that it would affect your judgment of the wider public interest?

- 4.5 The Committee is asked to consider this proposed amendment to the code of conduct in addition to any other amendments considered to be appropriate.