

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM. 13(b)
13 JULY 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

CONSTITUTION – MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
That the Council, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee agree to amend its Member Code of Conduct to one based on the DCLG model as set out in Appendix 1 (Option 3) of Addendum A.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Audit Committee on 21 March 2016, considered a report on proposals to revise the Code of Conduct. The Audit Committee's recommendations are reported to Council for adoption.

2. BACKGROUND (& CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 abolished the previous Local Government Act 2000 code of conduct regime. The post 2000 Act regime consisted of a mandatory code of conduct and register of interests, prescribed investigation procedures, sanctions provisions that allowed for up to suspension locally and disbarment from being a councillor by a national Tribunal, and oversight by a government agency called Standards for England.
- 2.2 Instead, Councils must now have a code of conduct but are free to draft it in whatever form it wished provided that, when viewed as a whole, it is consistent with the seven principles of public life (sometimes known as the Nolan Principles).
- 2.3 Post 2011, the Council adopted a code made up of general provisions, largely the same as the previous code and was drafted in partnership with the Councils of Cambridgeshire.
- 2.4 The Audit Committee in March of this year reviewed the code, and considered amendments to part 1 of the code. A copy of its report is attached (**Addendum A**). It considered the following three options:
- a) Option 1 – retain the existing Code as set out in **Appendix 1** of the attached Audit Committee report;
 - b) Option 2 – amend the existing Code to replace part 1 of the code with the LGA template as set out in **Appendix 2**;
 - c) Option 3 – amend the existing Code to replace part 1 with the DCLG indicative code as set out in **Appendix 3**.

The Committee agreed to recommend that Council amends its Member Code of Conduct based on the DCLG model as set out in **Addendum A (Appendix 3)**.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Financial implications - there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

3.2 Legal implications - the relevant legal or risk implications arising from the proposals are contained within the body of this report.

3.3 Equalities implications – there are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

4.1 All background documents used in the drafting of this report have been public documents and are largely referred to within the report.

5. APPENDICES

Addendum A – Audit Committee report and relevant appendices contained within.