

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

## CONSTITUTION – MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
<b>FROM : CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
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 <b>Appendix 1 (Option 3) of Addendum A.</b>

### 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.