

**Joint Standards Committee**

**18 April 2018**

## **Report of the Monitoring Officer**

### **Review of Local Government Ethical Standards**

#### **Summary**

1. This report advises the Committee of a review into ethical standards in Local Government being conducted by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and seeks this Committee's views on a proposed response to a stakeholder consultation.

#### **Background**

2. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is undertaking a review of local government ethical standards. The terms of reference for the review are to:
  - examine the structures, processes and practices in local government in England for:
    - maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors
    - investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process
    - enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct
    - declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest
    - whistleblowing
  - assess whether the existing structures, processes and practices are conducive to high standards of conduct in local government
  - make any recommendations for how they can be improved

- note any evidence of intimidation of councillors, and make recommendations for any measures that could be put in place to prevent and address such intimidation
3. The review will consider all levels 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).
  4. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is currently inviting responses from stakeholders to a number of questions. These questions and a possible response are set out in the annex to this report.

### **Recommendations**

5. Members are recommended to:
  - 1) Approve the annexed documents as the Joint Standards Committee's response to the current consultation.

Reason: To allow the Committee to contribute to a national debate on local government standards.

### **Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 09/04/18

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annex**

Consultation response