

REPORT TO: Audit & Governance Board
DATE: 23 March 2022
REPORTING OFFICER: Monitoring Officer
PORTFOLIO: Leader
SUBJECT: Revised Code of Conduct For Members
WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) published a model Code of Conduct for Members (Model Code), with corrections on 19th January 2021. The nine authorities across the City Region had previously had different codes of conduct, creating the potential for confusion and differing interpretation when acting in a shared capacity. The Model Code, adapted to suit local needs, was adopted by Council in July 2021. The LGA have made some minor changes to their model and therefore a revised version of the Code to take account of them is presented for consideration and adoption.

- 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board recommends Council to adopt the revised Code of Conduct for Members attached to this report as Appendix 1.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members will recall that this Board considered the Model Code at its meeting in July 2021 and recommended its adoption to Council, which was done later that month.
- 3.2 The LGA has since published a revised version of the code to correct typographical errors. However, a significant change has been made to the prejudicial interest test, which in the Merseyside Model Code and original LGA Model Code is applied to “your interests”. The revised drafting properly expands the scope of the test to include other interests and those of family and associates in accordance with the Principles of Public Life.
- 3.3 The Merseyside Model Code was based on the December 2020 version of the LGA Model Code. The 17 May 2021 version has only recently been made available to Liverpool City Region Monitoring Officers and the 19 January 2021 version was not provided. As such, additional amendments may subsequently be required to incorporate into the Merseyside Code of Conduct any further relevant changes and/or to provide for other local arrangements.

- 3.4 Monitoring Officers across the Liverpool City Region will continue to work together in an attempt to align amendments to the Merseyside Model Code across their respective authorities.
- 3.5 The revised version of the Code attached as Appendix 1 to this report is presently considered to represent best practice and the Board is asked to recommend it to Council for approval. It has already been approved in this form by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is extremely important that the Council has a Code of Conduct for Members which is up to date and fit for purpose.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 There are no risks requiring control measures. For the protection of Members,

public and stakeholders alike, it is important that the Code of Conduct is fit for purpose.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Extensive consultation was carried out by the LGA in developing the Model Code

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 The LGA Model Code