

Meeting of the Council - 25th February, 2013

Report of the Audit and Standards Committee

Revised Wording of the Seven Principles in Public Life

Purpose of Report

1. To consider updating the Members' Code of Conduct and any other references in the Constitution or associated documentation to include revised wording of the seven principles in public life.

Background

2. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has published a report entitled "Standards Matter – A review of best practice in promoting good behaviour in Public Life" (January 2013). The full report is available on the internet at the following link:- http://www.public-standards.org.uk/Library/Standards_Matter.pdf
The report recommends changes to the descriptions of the Seven Principles in Public Life. The amended descriptions are set out in Appendix1. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has indicated that these descriptions will be used in all their future publications. Advice received from national professional bodies is that it would be appropriate to update the Council's local Codes of Conduct to reflect the new terminology.
3. The revised descriptions refer to 'holders of public office'. It is proposed that the Members' Code of Conduct be updated with the revised descriptions and that the Employees Code should also reflect the same principles when it is next reviewed in September 2013.
4. The Audit and Standards Committee at their meeting held on 14th February, 2013 will consider this matter and be recommended to approve the recommendation in paragraph 8 below. Any changes to the recommendation will be reported to this meeting.

Finance

5. There are no particular financial implications arising from this report.

Law


- 6 Section III of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

- 7 There are no equality impact implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

- 8. That the Council be recommended to authorise the Director of Corporate Resources to update the Members' Code of Conduct and any other references in the Constitution or associated documentation to include the revised wording of the seven principles in public life.



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Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee