

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Member Panel on the Constitution  
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(For All Enquiries)

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To advise the Council about the amendments to the Councillors' Code of Conduct to include guidance about Trustees obligations and updated procedural guidance in the light of recent experience.

##### **2. Recommendations**

The Council is requested to resolve that the revised Councillors' Code of Conduct, attached at Appendix A, be approved.

##### **3. Other Implications**

###### **(a) Financial**

There are no financial implications of this report.

###### **(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

The Localism Act 2011 places the Council under a statutory duty to establish an ethical framework:

- Under section 27(2) it must adopt a code of conduct dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members when they are acting in that capacity,
- Under section 29 (1) the Monitoring Officer must establish and maintain a members' register of interests,
- Under Section 28 (6) it must have in place arrangements under which allegations of breach of the code can be investigated and decisions made upon the allegations,
- Under section 28(7) the arrangements put in place must include provision for the appointment of at least one Independent Person whose views are to be sought and taken into account by the Council before it makes its decision on allegations

which have been investigated and whose views upon an allegation may be sought by the Council at any other time and may be sought by a member who is the subject of an allegation.

#### **4. Supporting Information**

##### **Councillors' Code of Conduct**

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for its elected and co-opted members. The Localism Act 2011 made fundamental changes to the system of regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors and for Parish Councils.
- 4.2 The Council adopted a new Members' Code of Conduct in 2012. The Interim Monitoring Officer has recently amended the Code of Conduct and it was submitted to Full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November. A request was made for guidance to be included about Trustees obligations and some updated procedure guidance required as a result of recent experience.
- 4.3 A copy of the revised Code of Conduct is attached at Appendix A. The existing Code, as at Part 5.1 of the Constitution, can be viewed at:  
<http://www.slough.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=563&MId=5990&Ver=4&Info=1>

##### **Consideration by Full Council**

Full Council considered the amended Code of Conduct on 28<sup>th</sup> November and asked for information to be added about Trustees' obligations and for procedures to be updated in the light of recent experience. The revised Code of Conduct is set out in Appendix A.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The Council is requested to consider and approve the amendments to the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

#### **6. Appendices Attached**

Appendix A – Revised Councillors' Code of Conduct