

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Standards Committee

10 March 2021

TITLE:	Model Code of Conduct – Local Government Association
PORTFOLIO:	Councillor Alan Barrow – Executive Councillor for Finance and Corporate Services
OFFICER:	Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer
WARDS:	All

Appendix 1 – Model Code of Conduct.

1. Reason for the Report:

1.1 To notify Members that a new Model Code of Conduct has been published by the Local Government Association (LGA).

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

3. Executive Summary

3.1 All Councils are required to have a Code of Conduct which governs the conduct of Elected Members.

3.2 The Government's Committee on Standards in Public Life undertook a comprehensive review of local government ethical standards and published a report in January 2019. The Committee made 26 formal recommendations. The first recommendation recommended that the LGA should create an updated model code of conduct.

3.3 The Local Government Association published the updated Model Code in December 2020 (attached as Appendix 1). The code has been published

following consultation with stakeholders, and examining good practice in local government and other professions. The Committee may recall that comments were submitted by the Council as part of the consultation exercise.

- 3.4 The revised code includes provisions for the use of social media by Members, it attempts to clarify when Members are determined to be acting in their Official capacities and it re-enforces the provisions around preventing abusive, threatening and intimidating behaviour.
- 3.5 The Model Code continues to be in-line with the seven principles of public life, namely, selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership.
- 3.6 The Council's current code of conduct was approved in July 2019 after being revised in consideration of the best practice recommendations which had been set out in the ethical standards review. The Government has not yet responded to the formal recommendations within the review report. If the Government does choose to implement the formal recommendations it is likely that there will be legislative change and the code of conduct will require further amendment. It is proposed that a further report will be presented to Members of the Standards Committee at that stage.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

None.

4.2 Workforce

None.

4.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

4.4 Financial Considerations

None.

4.5 Legal

The formal recommendations put forward by the Committee for Standards in Public Life may require changes to primary legislation with a consequential impact upon the content of local codes of conduct.

4.6 Sustainability

None.

4.7 Internal and External Consultation

None.

4.8 Risk Assessment

None.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

[Local Government Association – Model Code of Conduct](#)

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