

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

9 JUNE 2020

Title:

Waverley Members' Code of Conduct
- Proposed revision

Head of Service: Robin Taylor, Head of Policy & Governance and
Monitoring Officer

Key decision: No

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

- 1.1 This report proposes a minor revision to the Waverley Member's Code of Conduct, to update the descriptions of the seven Nolan Principles to those now being used by the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The revised version of the Waverley Members' Code of Conduct showing the new text as tracked changes is attached at Annexe 1.
- 1.2 The LGA's work on the new Model Code of Conduct has been delayed due to their work supporting local authorities on the Covid-19 pandemic response. The draft will be brought to the Standards Committee for consideration when it is released.

2. Recommendation

The Standards Committees recommends to Full Council that the revised Waverley Members' Code of Conduct be adopted.

3. Reason for the recommendation

To ensure that the Waverley Members' Code of Conduct is consistent with the updated statement of the Nolan Principles.

4. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Strategy priority of 'Open, democratic and participative governance'.

5. Implications of decision

5.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

5.2 Risk management

Updating the Waverley Members' Code of Conduct to be consistent with the current public descriptions of the Nolan Principles avoids there being any confusion about the expected standards in public life.

5.3 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from the proposed changes to the descriptions of the Nolan Principles within the Waverley Members' Code of Conduct.

5.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

There is a general obligation in the Code of Conduct in which Members undertake to "not do anything which may cause the Council to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in Section 33 of the Equality Act 2010)".

5.5 Climate emergency declaration

There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report.

6. Consultation and engagement

6.1 None.

7. Other options considered

7.1 The original descriptions of the Nolan Principles in the current Code of Conduct have been updated but not changed significantly in their meaning. However, updating them to reflect the current text avoids potential confusion for Members.

8. Governance journey

8.1 This report was considered by the Standards Committee on 21 May 2020.

Annexe:

Annexe 1 – Waverley Members' Code of Conduct – draft May 2020 revision (with tracked changes)

Background Papers

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972). .

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