

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: COUNCIL

DATE: 9th DECEMBER 2021

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CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To report on changes to the Councillor Code of Conduct and amendments to the Rules of Procedure on Questions on Notice at Full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Councillor Code of Conduct be amended as attached with immediate effect.
- (2) That Rules 11.2 and 11.3 of Procedure at Full Council be amended accordingly.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To update and clarify the Code of Conduct.
- (2) To update the procedure on Member Questions on Notice.

1. The Local Government Association recently issued a new model Code of Conduct for Councillors. This was reviewed by the Member Governance Working Group who considered that it should not be adopted in full to replace the Council's present Code. However it was felt that certain parts could be lifted from it and it inserted into the present Code to give it more clarity.
2. The Code with the proposed additions in bold type is attached.
3. The Governance Working Group recommends the Council to adopt the amended Code with immediate effect.
4. Separately the Governance Working Group has also considered two points in relation to Questions on Notice from Members of the Council.

5. Rule 11.2 of Procedure at Full Council allows such questions to be asked of the Mayor, the Leader, a chairman of a committee or a representative on an outside body. There is no provision to ask a question of a Member Champion.
6. Rule 11.3 of Procedure at Full Council requires questions on notice to be given in writing to the Corporate Director by noon on the day of the meeting. The suggestion is that this deadline be brought forward to noon on the day before the meeting to allow more time for officers and the member in question to prepare the reply.
7. Council is requested to consider whether to amend the Rules of Procedure accordingly.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising from this report

Financial: None arising from this report

Legal: None arising from this report

Risk Management: None arising from this report

Health and Safety: None arising from this report

Sustainability: None arising from this report

Community Safety: None arising from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising from this report

APPENDIX Revised Councillor Code of Conduct

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS None