



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# Council

25 November 2021

**Report of:** Councillor Linda Wootten

Cabinet Member for Corporate  
Governance and Licensing



## Member Code of Conduct

To consider adopting the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

### Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
<b>A High Performing Council</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>All Wards</b>

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Shelley Thirkell (Principal Democratic Services Officer)	25 October 2021
<b>Approved by:</b>	Alan Robinson (Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer)	28 October 2021
<b>Signed off by:</b>	Councillor Linda Wootten (Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing)	26 October 2021

### Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

- 1. That Council adopt the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct, as appended to the report.**

## **1. The Background to the Report**

- 1.1** The Local Government Association introduced a new model Councillor Code of Conduct on 23 December 2020, which had been designed to protect a Councillor's democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's interest in local government.
- 1.2** A copy of the model Councillor Code of Conduct is attached to this report at Appendix A.
- 1.3** The new Code has been developed in association with key partners and extensive consultation with the local government sector.
- 1.4** A number of authorities across the country have adopted the new model Code, however, this can also be used as a template for individual Councils to adopt in whole or with local amendments.
- 1.5** South Kesteven District Council's current Code of Conduct is based on the previous model Code.
- 1.6** Under the heading 'General Conduct', the new model Code consists of the following elements, underpinned by the seven principles of public life, also known as the Nolan Principles.

- Respect
- Bullying, harassment and discrimination
- Impartiality of officers of the Council
- Confidentiality and access to information
- Disrepute
- Use of position
- Use of local authority resources and facilities
- Complying with the Code of Conduct
- Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority
- Gifts and hospitality

- 1.7** The new model Code also sets out greater transparency regarding the registration and disclosure of interests, with a requirement to register other interests in addition to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, which include:

- Any unpaid directorships
- Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- Any body
  - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
  - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
  - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

## **2. Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny**

- 2.1** Significant consultation has taken place with the Local Government Association and the local government sector in developing the new model Councillor Code of Conduct.
- 2.2** The Constitution Committee considered this report at its meeting on 8 November 2021 and supported adoption of the model Councillor Code of Conduct.

### **3. Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 To maintain the existing South Kesteven District Council Member Code of Conduct.
- 3.2 To recommend adoption of the model Councillor Code of Conduct with amendments.
- 3.3 To recommend adoption of the model Councillor Code of Conduct as appended.

### **4. Preferred Option**

- 4.1 To recommend adoption of the model Councillor Code of Conduct

### **5. Reasons for the Recommendation (s)**

- 5.1 The new model Councillor Code of Conduct, developed by the Local Government Association, is considered as best practice in the sector and provides much more comprehensive assistance to Councillors in modelling the behaviour that is expected of them as well as setting out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against them.

### **6. Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision**

- 6.1 Subject to Council agreeing to adopt the model Code of Conduct, training for all Members on the different elements of the new Code will be provided.
- 6.2 The Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer would then work with all Parish and Town Councils in the district to provide guidance and training on the new model Code, recommending that they also adopt it for their respective Councils.

### **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Assistant Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer**

### **8. Legal and Governance Implications**

- 8.1 South Kesteven District Council's current Member Code of Conduct was adopted in accordance with the Council's obligations under Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 and complies with the requirements under Section 28 of the Act. Any changes to the current Code of Conduct would be subject to approval by full Council.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Alan Robinson, Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer**

### **8. Background Papers**

- 9.1 None

### **9. Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct
- 10.2 Appendix 2 – South Kesteven District Council's current Member Code of Conduct