

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority)

6 August 2020

Present:

Councillors Thomas (Chair), Bown, Brazil, Drean, Prowse, Redman and Trail BEM (Vice-Chair).

Also in attendance in accordance with Standing Order 38:

Councillors Colthorpe, Randall Johnson and Vijeh.

* **SC/13**

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2019 be approved as a correct record.

* **SC/14**

Model Member Code of Conduct - Consultation Response

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Governance and Digital Services (SC/20/1) to which was appended a draft response to the Local Government Consultation (LGA) on a Model Code of Members' Conduct. Responses to the consultation were invited by 17 August 2020.

The LGA had developed the Model Code in response to the recommendation by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) following its review of the local government ethical regime introduced by the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act"). To inform the draft response to the LGA consultation, a gap analysis had been undertaken between the LGA Model Code and this Authority's current Code of Conduct, which had last been revised in April 2019 to incorporate, amongst other things, the best practice recommendations made by CSPL following its review (Minute DSFRA/7(c) refers).

Members commented, amongst other things:

- that the Authority's current Code compared favourably to the proposed LGA Model Code;
- that any final Model Code issued by the LGA should retain the personal tense ("I will/you will") to reflect a contract between the individual Member and the Authority; and
- that, as provided for by the Act, the Authority should retain the flexibility to tailor its own Code to reflect its own circumstances, subject to being, as a minimum, fully compliant with any Model Code eventually issued by the LGA.

RESOLVED

- (a). that the draft response, as attached as Appendix B to report SC/20/1, to the Local Government Association consultation on a Model Members' Code of Conduct be approved; and

- (b). that the Clerk be authorised to submit, on behalf of the Authority, the consultation response to the Local Government Association.

*** DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.26 pm