

Revised Guidance on the Councillors' Code of Conduct

Report by Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to note the work that is in progress by the Standards Commission in relation to reviewing the Guidance on the Councillors' Code of Conduct and further to note and endorse the response that has been submitted on behalf of Midlothian Council.

2 Background and Main Report

2.1 Guidance on the Councillors' Code of Conduct

The Standards Commission issued guidance to assist councillors in their interpretation of the revised Councillors' Code of Conduct which came into effect in December 2010. The Standards Commission has now taken the opportunity to review and revise the guidance to ensure it is as helpful as possible and also to make sure it remains fit for purpose.

The draft of the revised Guidance on the Councillors' Code of Conduct has been circulated to Elected Members and can also be found at the following website:

http://www.standardscommissionscotland.org.uk/webfm_send/449.

At the invitation of the Standards Commission to receive feedback on the draft guidance, Midlothian Council convened a meeting of the Standards Committee which took place on the 3 December 2015.

As a result of this meeting, a submission has been prepared which represents the views of Elected Members on the Standards Committee. Due to the fact that feedback had to be submitted to the Standards Commission by 11 December 2015, the Midlothian feedback has been submitted pending approval at the full Council meeting on 15 December 2015.

A copy of the submission to the Standards Commission has been attached at Appendix 1.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no Resource implications as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

3.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- Community safety
- Adult health, care and housing
- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth
- Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Not applicable

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

3.10 IT Issues

Not applicable.

4 Recommendations

Council is recommended to;

- (a) note the work of the Standards Commission in reviewing the Guidance on the Councillors' Code of Conduct; and
- (b) note and endorse the submission drafted by Midlothian Council's Standards Committee to the Standards Commission confirming the feedback of the Midlothian Council Elected Members.

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