

## North York Moors National Park Authority Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

1 September 2020

### Update on the Local Government Ethical Standards Review carried out by the Committee on Standards in Public Life

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the present position.

#### 2. Present Position

- 2.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CoSPL) is an advisory, non-departmental public body that advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in England. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders. It published its 'Local Government Ethical Standards Review' on 30 January 2019. The Review suggested a long list of examples of 'best practice' and of specific 'recommendations', including changes to relevant legislation.
- 2.2 Officers believe that with the onset of CV19, the related lockdown, and the related health, social and economic priorities, the Government is unlikely to move forward with implementing any elements of the Review for the remainder of this year. Officers will continue to monitor the situation and will report back to Members in early 2021 on the position at that time.

#### 3. Model Code of Conduct

- 3.1 'Recommendation 1' of the CoSPL Review was that the Local Government Association (LGA) should create an updated 'model code of conduct', in consultation with representative bodies of councillors and officers of all tiers of local government. The LGA has already commenced that task, stating that it is "part of a wider programme of work on civility in public life and in response to rising local government concern about the increasing incidence of public, member-to-member and officer/member intimidation and abuse and overall behavioural standards and expectations in public debate, decision making and engagement". Officers will engage in that task as appropriate and report back to Members in due course.

#### 4. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 4.1 None at this stage.

#### 5. Risks and Legal Implications

- 5.1 None at this stage.

#### 6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That Members note the present position.

**Appendices for this Report**

None

**Background Papers for this Report**

The Local Government Ethical Standards Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, published on 30 January 2019

**Contact Officers**

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