

South Lakeland District Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

17 APRIL 2018

REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

CHAIRMAN:	Councillor Chris Hogg - Chairman of Standards Committee
REPORT FROM:	Debbie Storr - Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer)
REPORT AUTHOR:	Debbie Storr - Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer)
WARDS:	All wards
FORWARD PLAN:	Not applicable

1.0 EXPECTED OUTCOME

- 1.1 That the committee notes the Review of Local Government Ethical Standards, Stakeholder Consultation and considers any response to the same.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members note the Review of Local Government Ethical Standards by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and considers the draft response to the consultation paper.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life is undertaking a Review of Local Government Ethical Standards. The terms of reference for the review are to:
1. Examine the structures, processes and practices in local government in England for:
 - a. Maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors;
 - b. Investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process;
 - c. Enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct;
 - d. Declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest; and
 - e. Whistleblowing.
 2. Assess whether the existing structures, processes and practices are conducive to high standards of conduct in local government;
 3. Make any recommendations for how they can be improved; and
 4. Note any evidence of intimidation of councillors, and make recommendations for any measures that could be put in place to prevent and address such intimidation.

The review will consider all levels of local government in England, including town and parish councils.

3.2 The consultation document is attached to this report as appendix 1 with proposed draft responses shown in red. Members will be familiar with the attachments referenced which have not been included with the agenda papers. Members are asked to note the consultation and consider any response to the same.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 The consultation paper has been circulated to management team, the Independent Person, Group Leaders, all members and parish clerks requesting any feedback on the consultation. Any update will be reported to the meeting.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 Not to make any response to the consultation, although this may lose an opportunity to help influence any future changes.

6.0 LINKS TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

6.1 Good governance underpins the Council's constitutional arrangements.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial and Resources

7.1.1 The recommendations in this report do not have any financial implications.

7.2 Human Resources

7.2.1 The recommendations in this report do not have any staffing implications.

7.3 Legal

7.3.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.4 Social, Economic and Environmental

Have you completed and Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons.	This report seeks response to a national consultation document	

7.5 Equality and Diversity

7.5.1

Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you have not completed an Equality Impact Analysis, please explain your reasons.	This report relates to a national consultation document.	

7.6 Risk

None

CONTACT OFFICERS

Debbie Storr, Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer).

Email:- d.storr@southlakeland.gov.uk

APPENDICES ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT

Appendix 1	Review of Local Government Ethical Standards :Stakeholder Consultation with proposed draft response
------------	---

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

None

TRACKING INFORMATION

Assistant Director	Portfolio Holder	Solicitor to the Council	SMT	Scrutiny Committee
	N/A	1.3.18	1.3.18	N/A
Standards Committee	Council	Section 151 Officer	Monitoring Officer	Leader
17.4.18	N/A	1.3.18	author	
Human Resource Services Manager	Chair of Standards			
N/a	Y			