

<p><b>Review of recommendations relating to Best Practice arising from the Committee on Standards in Public Life on the subject of ethical standards in Local Government</b></p>	
<p><b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>13 February 2020</p>	<p><b>CLASSIFICATION:</b></p> <p>Open</p>
<p><b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b></p> <p>All Wards</p>	
<p><b>Dawn Carter-McDonald</b>  <b>Head of Legal and Governance</b></p>	

**1. SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2019 considered the findings of the Government’s Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) review on the subject of local government ethical standards.
- 1.2 As part of that consideration and arising from the recommendations before the Committee on 16 September, the Committee agreed that the Council’s Monitoring Officer undertake a comparison of the current Council’s current Ethical Standards arrangements in place with a view to identifying whether they conform to the fifteen best practice recommendations identified by the CSPL report.

- 1.3 The comparison analysis in respect of the 15 best practice recommendations is now reported back to the Standards Committee for its consideration.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Standards Committee:**

- 2.1 **Considers the comparison findings of the Monitoring Officer on Best Practice as detailed in the attached appendix 1 in respect of the 15 Best Practice recommendations of the CSPL report;**
- 2.5 **Agrees to amend the Council's Best Practice protocol in line with the findings of the Monitoring Officer in respect of the 15 recommendations of the CSPL report; and**
- 2.3 **Agrees to recommend to Full Council to agree the proposed updates..**

## **3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 16 September considered findings of the Government's Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) review on the subject of local government ethical standards.
- 3.2 In considering the report the Standards Committee, one of the recommendations agreed was that the Council's Monitoring Officer undertake a comparison of the Council's current arrangements with a view to identifying whether they conformed to the fifteen best practice recommendations identified by the CSPL report.
- 3.3 The attached appendix 1 gives a comparison of the Council's current arrangements against those 15 best practice recommendations. The Council currently operates within the auspices of the 15 recommended best practice proposals, and the comparison shows this, together with those points where the Council partially meets the proposed best practice.
- 3.4 As a result of the comparison findings the Committee are asked to note the findings and to adopt those findings currently partially met, and recommend the adoption of these to Full Council.

## **4. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE**

- 5.1 The Council has a duty under s 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and to adopt a code of conduct that is consistent with the Nolan Principles.
- 5.2 The identified 'best practice' arrangements for the Council in the attached appendix1 represents in the main a good comparison of the LB Hackney's current arrangements benchmarked against the 15 best recommendations of the CSPL review .
- 5.3 The Council has the discretion to review and update its Code of Conduct for Members to reflect some of the identified good practice prior to legislation being introduced, and therefore it is proposed that the Standards Committee recommends to Full Council the adoption of best practice as recommended by the CSPL where the Council currently does not meet the proposed best practice proposals.

## **6. Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising out this report.

## **Background papers**

None

**Suki Binjal**  
**Director of Legal & Governance**

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1

Best Practice as identified by the findings of the Committee on Standards in Public Life on the subject of ethical standards in local government, and comparison of the current practices of LB Hackney.

<b>Report Author</b>	Dawn Carter-McDonald
----------------------	----------------------

	Head of Legal & Governance Dawn.Carter-McDonald@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 4817
<b>Comments for and on behalf of the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources</b>	Michael Honeysett Director, Financial Management 020 8356 3332 Michael.honeysett@hackney.gov.uk
<b>Comments for and on behalf of the Director, Legal and Governance</b>	Dawn Carter-McDonald Head of Legal & Governance Dawn.Carter-McDonald@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 4817