

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

**Subject** : Revised Code of Conduct  
**Committee** : Full Council  
**Date** : 26 June 2023  
**Author** : Annie Child, City Clerk

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## 1. Report Summary:

1.1. This report introduces a revised Code of Conduct for consideration.

## 2. Background:

2.1. The City Council must have Code of Conduct (Localism Act 2011 section 28)

2.2. SCC's existing Code of Conduct is shown [here](#). It was last reviewed in 2020.

2.3. The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed a new Code of Conduct following a consultation which local authorities and other bodies including parish councils.

2.4. Salisbury City Council (SCC) took part in this consultation. Full Council agreed in Jun 2020 that it would form a task group to discuss Code of Conduct Consultation, which was promoted by the National Association of Local Council and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

2.5. A task group was formed, and a response agreed. This is shown for information at the end of this report.

2.6. The LGA published its new Model Code of Conduct in May 2021.

## 3. A Revised Code of Conduct:

3.1. The LGA Code of Conduct is designed "to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government."

3.2. Whilst it has been designed for principal local authorities, it is applicable to parish councils, and other parish councils have already adopted Codes of Conduct based on the LGA model.

3.3. Full details are shown here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/local-government-association-model-councillor-code-conduct-2020>

3.4. The draft revised Code of Conduct is attached to this report (Doc 90634). It is based on the LGA Model Code with minor changes to reflect SCC's specific circumstances.

3.5. This proposed Code of Conduct consists of two parts:

3.5.1. Code of Conduct

3.5.2. Councillor and Officer Protocol

3.6. These two documents form the complete Code of Conduct, and if adopted will replace the extant [Members Code of Conduct](#) and [Member and Employee Protocol](#).

#### **4. Recommendation:**

It is recommended that:

4.1. The Council agree the revised Code of Conduct (Doc 90634)

#### **5. Wards Affected: All.**

#### **6. Background papers:**

6.1. Annex A - Revised Code of Conduct (Doc 90634)

6.2. Extant Code of Conduct (available [here](#))

6.3. Extant Member and Employee Protocol (available [here](#))

#### **7. Implications:**

7.1. **Financial:** Nil

7.2. **Legal:** Nil

7.3. **Personnel:** None identified as yet

7.4. **Environmental Impact:** Nil in relation to this report.

7.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** None identified as yet.

## **The narrative response by Salisbury City Council to the LGA's Code of Conduction Consultation 2020 to LGA on 4 Aug 2020**

Salisbury City Council (SCC) notes that the Code of Conduct can act as a useful guide particularly to new councillors. However, SCC also notes lack of effective enforcement procedures locally and inadequacy of sanctions if breeches occurs.

### **Application of the Code (page 3)**

*The Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting [or claiming or giving the impression that you are acting]1 in [public or in]2 your capacity as a member or representative of your council, although you are expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times*

SCC does not agree with statement 1 in brackets. This is subjective and adds uncertainty to the code of conduct.

### **Civility (page 4)**

SCC does not agree to the use of the word civility. This concept too subjective. SCC notes that Councillors should treat all council employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the council with courtesy and respect the role they play. However, SCC recognises that Councillors can and should engage in robust political debate.

### **Bullying and harassment (page 4)**

SCC notes that the definition of harassment should be more clearly shown. The Equality Act 2010 definition is supplied but it needs to be explicitly linked to the code of conduct if it is intended this definition be used.

### **Disrepute (page 5)**

SCC consider the term disrepute needs to be reviewed and defined to make clearer, and that the code needs to be more explicit about dishonesty.

### **Gifts and Hospitality (page 5)**

SCC notes the need to define what significant means in this context but supports the registering and recording of gifts

Doc 80015