

GMCA – Standards Committee

Date: 17 September 2019

Subject: Review of the GMCA Members Code of Conduct

Report of: GMCA Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The review of the GMCA Code of Conduct forms part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme.

The Standards Committee is requested to undertake a review of the Code following consideration of the earlier report on the agenda on the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life on Local Government Ethical Standards.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Committee provide feedback to the Monitoring Officer.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Name: Gwynne Williams
Position: Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Telephone: 0161 608 4007
E-mail: williamsg@manchesterfire.gov.uk

Risk Management – none arising out of the report

Legal Considerations – the Code of Conduct is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011

Financial Consequences – none arising out of the report

Financial Consequences – none arising out of the report

Number of attachments included in the report: 1

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

BACKGROUND PAPERS:**GMCA's Code of Conduct for Members**

TRACKING/PROCESS	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution	No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN	
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?	No
TfGMC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
N/A	N/A

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Committee considered a report on the scope and application of its Code of Conduct for Members at its meeting on 2 November 2017.
- 1.2. The Code of Conduct for Members had been updated to make clear the existing statutory position that the code applies to all voting co-opted members of GMCA committees as well as to GMCA members. For example, the members of the Audit Committee and any Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) are subject to the Code.
- 1.3. The revised Code of Conduct for Members also invites voluntary compliance with the code by non-voting co-opted members and by elected members of Greater Manchester district councils when they act for or represent the GMCA (such as by sitting on non-decision making bodies).
- 1.4. It is to be noted that the Code only applies where a member acts in their official capacity as a member of the GMCA or a voting co-opted member of a GMCA committee (or in the case of those voluntarily subject to compliance with the Code, where they are acting on behalf of the GMCA). Where a member is acting in their capacity as a member of one of the ten constituent district councils, their conduct is measured against the code of member conduct adopted by their district.

1.5. A copy of the GMCA Code of Conduct is attached, as Appendix 1.

2. Local Government Ethical Standards

- 2.1. The Committee will have considered elsewhere on the agenda issues arising out of the work undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on Local Government Ethical Standards published in January 2019.

3. Review and Recommendations to the Monitoring Officer

- 3.1. Following the abolition of the national code of conduct, by the Localism Act in 2011, the ten Greater Manchester (GM) local authorities decided to adopt an agreed local code of conduct across GM. This was to help enhance consistency across GM and also the quality of the locally adopted code.
- 3.2. The chief legal officers of each of the ten GM local authorities and the Monitoring Officer of the GMCA will be considering the best practice recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
- 3.3. The Standards Committee is asked to review the Code of Conduct and provide their views.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. Recommendations are set out at the beginning of this report.