

North East Derbyshire District/Parish Liaison Meeting 15th October 2021

Code of Conduct and LGA Model Code

Report of the Monitoring Officer

As a result of a report by the Committee for Standards in Public Life (formally the Nolan Committee) in 2019, the Local Government Association (the LGA) have produced a model code of conduct for local authority councillors. There had not been a model code for about 10 years prior to this and was a positive recommendation of the Committee in its report. It was concluded by the Committee that there needed to be a model code, partly so that Members on different tiers of Council had to abide by the same code of conduct for each one. As this can be done without changing legislation, it has been produced by the LGA as soon as they could.

NEDDC has adopted a version of this model code. There are additions that the Council considered necessary, but none of the additions alters the model code provisions. The model code did not differ from the Council's previous code in any major way.

It does however reinforce aspects of behaviour that are expected of Members. Bullying is dealt with specifically and it makes clear that such behaviour is unacceptable in any circumstances. It also emphasises the need for Members to show respect for all the people Members deal with. These are new explicit provisions.

Also new is an extension of the applicability of the code. Although it still only applies when the councillor is acting in their official role, the circumstances in which the councillor may be seen as acting in their official capacity have been extended.

It is my intention to write out to all Parish and Town Councils (with the Chair of the Standards Committee) to inform them that the District Council has adopted a new code, send them a copy, advise them to review their own code and preferably adopt the LGA model code. We will also invite them to some training sessions we are proposing for Parish and Town Councillors. These sessions will be virtual but with the team and me there to take you through the training and answer any questions. This will be by zoom.

The dates proposed will be circulated as soon as possible.

I wanted to let you know this is on its way.

Sarah

30.9.21