

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Draft code of conduct version	Summary of consultation responses
June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The code contains a number of typographical errors • There is confusion about when the code is intended to apply • There is a conflict between breaches of certain types of conduct which could attract no sanction and breaches of obligations which could attract a range of sanctions • There need to be greater sanctions for breaches of the code to make it meaningful • It is good that the draft code contains sanctions • The bullying and harassment provisions should make clear that they apply to everyone and not just those with protected characteristics • An obligation should be included so that councillors do not compromise their own impartiality • There are concerns about the requirements regarding acceptance of gifts and hospitality • There should be an absolute prohibition on members accepting any gifts or hospitality • Examples of the type of conduct which could bring the Council into disrepute should be included • There should be an obligation on each member to cooperate with any investigation into a breach of the code. • A criminal breach of the code which is also a breach of the obligations under the code should also enable to Council to impose sanctions • An obligation should be included which requires the protection of whistleblowers • Reference to the standard of proof to be applied to any breach should be included • A time limit should be applied to the requirement to disclose information • There is no need for an obligation requiring disclosure of certain interests as it is a criminal offence not to declare an interest • The table setting out interests needs to be clearer • The definition of sensitive interests should be more widely defined • A provision should be included that the code is not intended to interfere with the normal rights of free speech or seek to fetter civilised and informed debate • The definition of integrity in the code should be amended
January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This version of the code is better than the first version

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft code contains a number of typographical errors • Unpaid directorships should be included in the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Table 1 • Examples should be included in the section on Bullying Harassment and Discrimination • The Council should include a public interest test against which allegations are filtered • The lack of sanctions for any breach of the code is a problem • Best practice recommends seeking the views of the public community organisations and neighbouring authorities when reviewing codes • There is no reason why the Council should adopt this version of the code
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft contains formatting and typographical errors • There are issues with the provisions relating to confidentiality • The guidance should be significantly shortened • The code and the guidance do not contain anything about sanctions nor any procedure for determining whether a breach has occurred • An amended public interest test could be adapted by the Council and included in the code