

Standards Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	17 February 2025
Report Title	Consultation on Standards Regime
EMT Lead	Robin Harris – Monitoring Officer
Head of Service	
Lead Officer	
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider drafting a response from the standards committee on behalf of the council to the Government’s consultation on the standards regime. 2. To delegate to the Monitoring Officer authority to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out the Government Consultation on the Standards Regime for councillors and asks councillors to consider whether they would like to submit a formal response.

2 Background

2.1 The consultation on standards regime seeks views on introducing a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England, and measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime in England to ensure consistency of approach amongst councils investigating serious breaches of their member codes of conduct, including the introduction of the power of suspension.

2.2 The government is determined to fix the foundations of local government so councils can sustainably provide decent public services and shape local places, and so elected representatives can be fully accountable to the public they serve. Doing so is critical to national renewal, our missions, and our plans to push power out of Westminster and into the hands of local people with skin in the game.

2.3 This consultation is focused on the proposed reforms to the standards and conduct regime that will contribute to making sure England is covered by effective local and strategic authorities that are well-governed, with high standards met and maintained.

3 Proposals

3.1 To discuss the potential response to the consultation to see whether a formal response can be agreed to be submitted.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

4.1 To decide not to submit formally on behalf of the Council, but individual council groups are free to respond before 26 February 2025.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The Standards Committee is being consulted.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	No implications identified at this stage.
Financial, Resource and Property	No implications identified at this stage.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	No implications identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	No implications identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No implications identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	No implications identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No implications identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	No implications identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	No implications identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data	No implications identified at this stage.

Protection	
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7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

Appendix I: Government Consultation on the Standards Regime

8 Background Documents

8.1 None.