Cabinet



Date of meeting: 20 March 2023

Title of Report: Officer Code of Conduct

Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and

Governance)

Lead Strategic Director: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)

Author: Ross Jago, Head of Governance, Performance and Risk

Contact Email: ross.jago@plymouth.gov.uk

Your Reference: OCC/3/23

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report follows a request from the Audit and Governance Committee to consider the Officer Code of Conduct.

The Officer Code of Conduct in its current form has been part of the Constitution since its update in 2012. The code is based on the model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Employees published by the then Local Government Management Board and local government associations in 1994. The Plymouth code contained is broadly in line those agreed by other unitary local authorities within our family group.

There is no statutory requirement for an officer code of conduct. Government has consulted on making the Officer Code of Conduct a statutory requirement twice in 2004 and 2008. The Local Government Association has maintained the position that the code should not become a statutory requirement as authorities already have well developed codes of conduct which apply to employees.

The code as it currently appears in the constitution is appended to this report for the benefit of the committee.

Recommendations and Reasons

The committee is recommended to note-

- 1. the current Officer Code of Conduct as published within the constitution,
- 2. that a wider review of the constitution is underway and further reports will be provided to the Audit and Governance Committee concerning any further changes required to the Officer Code of Conduct / Protocol on Member and Officer Relations.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None – This was a request of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

An effective code of conduct which is open, transparent and clear supports the democratic values of the Council.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None arising specifically from this report.

Financial Risks

None arising specifically from this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None arising specifically from this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

None arising specifically from this report.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
		ı	2	3	4	5	6	7		

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)									
	is not for	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule I 2A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
	ı	2	3	4	5	6	7			

^{*}Add rows as required to box below

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive.

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 10/03/2023

OFFICIAL

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL