

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

APPOINTMENTS, STANDARDS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

14 OCTOBER

ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. ISSUE

- 1.1. As part of good practice, the standards committee should review the code of conduct on an annual basis. This report allows members to consider potential change.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. THAT members approve the existing Code of Conduct.(Appendix 1) with no additional changes.
- 2.2. THAT members consider any additional training or explanation which may support the successful implementation of the code.

3. TIMELINE

- 3.1. Authorities are recommended to review their code of conduct on an annual basis. The WMFRA Code was last reviewed and updated between October – December 2023 and is therefore due for review.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The ASA Committee considered and approved a significant update to the Member Code of Conduct in October 2023. This update took account of the latest LGA Model Code of Conduct and best practices from constituent local authorities. The update closely mirrored the LGA Model Code with specific changes for a Fire Authority context.

- 4.2. The LGA Code of Conduct has not changed since 2023, and it is felt that the existing WMFRA Code of Conduct remains up to date. Members will be aware that the Code was utilised in relation to a Standards issue in April 2024 and was found to be effective.

5. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. An Equality Impact Assessment was not necessary in producing this report.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The Fire Authority is required by Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2007 to promote high standards of Conduct by members and Co-Opted members. This includes a requirement to adopt the Code of Conduct.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are no direct Financial Implications as a result of this report.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. There are no direct environmental implications as a result of this report.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS & APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 WMFRA Code of Conduct December 2023

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