Best Practice Recommendations Update 2020

	Best Practice	Sept 2019 Comments	Update 2020
1	Local authorities should include	Recommend strengthening the	Blackpool and Fylde Council
	prohibitions on bullying and	wording within the Code of	jointly responded to a
	harassment in codes of	Conduct for Members, which	consultation by the LGA
	conduct. These should include a	currently reads:	which was seeking to agree
	definition of bullying and	# 2	a model code of conduct for
	harassment supplemented with	"Not to bully any person"	elected members in August
	a list of examples of the sort of	perhaps drawing on good	2020. Within the proposed
	behaviour covered by such a definition.	examples such as Newcastle City Council.	model would be a more detailed definition of
	definition.	City Couricii.	bullying and harassment.
		The code of conduct has	bullying and harassment.
		previously been drawn up with	
		Fylde Borough Council as part	
		of the reciprocal arrangements	
		and to ensure where possible	
		consistency of approach. A	
		review should include that	
		council. This will also assist	
		with the role of the shared	
		Independent Persons.	
		Work on this should be	
		informed by the proposed LGA	
		model code.	
2	Councils should include	Suggest adding to the Code	Blackpool and Fylde Council
	provisions in their code of	under General Obligations	jointly responded to a
	conduct requiring councillors to	regarding a requirement to	consultation by the LGA
	comply with any formal	participate with any formal	which was seeking to agree
	standards investigation and	standards investigation notified	a model code of conduct for
	prohibiting trivial or malicious	by the Monitoring Officer	elected members in August
	allegations by councillors.		2020. Within the proposed
		The issue of making any	model would be wording
		allegation of a trivial or	covering this obligation.
		malicious nature, is a more difficult matter and suggest	The proposed complaint
		seeking input from other	handling procedure
		councils regarding their	elsewhere on the agenda
		defining of malicious and trivial	also covers dealing with
		allegations. Very difficult to	trivial and malicious
		define. These suggestions will	allegations.
		also be part of the consultation	
		with Fylde Borough Council.	
		Work on this should be	
		informed by the proposed LGA	
		model code.	

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3	Principal authorities should review their code of conduct each year and regularly seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities.	To conduct an annual review of the Code of Conduct for Members commencing in 2020 with consultation with others as appropriate. Again, this to be done if possible, in conjunction with Fylde Borough Council. Work on this should be informed by the proposed LGA model code.	As indicated earlier both Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council responded to the consultation on the proposed model LGA code. If the proposed LGA model code is adopted then this could be reviewed as part of that process. The intention is to do this in conjunction with Fylde Borough Council. This may also be a national basis.
			Rather than reviewing a model code which is likely to be adopted by many councils, the purpose of which is to bring some consistency in interpretation, then it may be prudent to review procedures such as the complaints handling procedure and the independent persons protocol on a periodic basis, these can be informed by experience.
4	An authority's code should be readily accessible to both councillors and the public, in a prominent position on the council's website and available in council premises.	The Code of Conduct is available on the Council's website, as part of the constitution. However, it is suggested that a separate area be set up explaining how complaints can be made and what the standards and expectations are.	The Code of Conduct is on the Council's website, as part of the Constitution. A separate part of the website under the complaints area also has information on how to submit a complaint and link to the code of conduct.
5	Local authorities should update their gifts and hospitality register at least once per quarter and publish it in an accessible format, such as CSV.	Following the request at a recent council meeting arrangements are being made for this to happen. However, this will need to be available in a CSV format.	This is now available and on the website but not in a CVS format. This will be looked at next.
6	Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.	Contained within Independent Person Protocol but should be added to complaint handling guidance (see point 10). This should also be undertaken in conjunction with Fylde Borough Council.	Contained within Independent Person Protocol and now referenced in the proposed complaint handling procedure.

To be picked up as part of 4 as parate part of the website in cases where misconduct has been found following a formal investigation, a decision notice should be published as soon as possible on its website, including a brief statement of facts, the provisors of the code of conduct, the person, the reasoning of the decision-maker, and any sanction applied. 10 A local authority should have access to three independent Persons. (Independent Persons) (one vacancy currently being recruited to). 11 Formal standards complaints about the code of conduct, the process for honding officers' roles should be made by the chair or by the parish council as a whole, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional currems and management of investigations and adjudications and and include providing advice, support and management of investigation and adjudications and page and provided the process for honding officers' roles should be made by the chair or by the parish council and and place and provided the process for honding officers' roles should include providing advice, support and management of investigations and adjudications and attents the consulted as a matter of course on misconduct allegations. Consulted as a matter of course on misconduct allegations. Councilon: Suggest strengthening the necessor prostocol. Th		Best Practice	Sept 2019 Comments	Update 2020
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principal authority. They should				

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	be provided with adequate training, corporate support and resources to undertake this work.		
13	A local authority should have procedures in place to address any conflicts of interest when undertaking a standards investigation. Possible steps should include asking the Monitoring Officer from a different authority to undertake the investigation.	Reciprocal investigation arrangements already in place with Fylde Borough Council supplemented by the use of an external investigator if necessary.	Reciprocal investigation arrangements already in place with Fylde Borough Council supplemented by the use of an external investigator if necessary.
14	Councils should report on separate bodies they have set up or which they own as part of their annual governance statement, and give a full picture of their relationship with those bodies. Separate bodies created by local authorities should abide by the Nolan principle of openness, and publish their board agendas and minutes and annual reports in an accessible place.	To be picked up as part of the Annual Governance Statement through the Council's internal Good Governance Group chaired by the Monitoring Officer. Minutes of joint bodies published on the council's website (e.g. Economic Prosperity Board). With regard to Council companies the minutes and agendas from the Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd are available on its website. The other companies are limited by shares and agendas and minutes contain commercially sensitive data and are not published.	Reference now made in the Annual Governance statement for 2019/ 2020. The Council as shareholder, provides oversight through its Shareholder Advisory Board. Minutes of joint bodies published on the council's website (e.g. Economic Prosperity Board). With regard to Council companies the minutes and agendas from the Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd are available on its website. The other companies are limited by shares and agendas and minutes contain commercially sensitive data and are not published.
15	Senior officers should meet regularly with political group leaders or group whips to discuss standards issues.	Suggest as this relates to themes of behaviour for group members the regular meetings be held with the Leader of the Council and Principal Opposition Leader and/ or their whips. Meetings with the two groups of two members to take place as and when necessary.	Meetings to be held with the Leader of the Council and Principal Opposition Leader and/ or their whips. Meetings with the two groups of two members to take place as and when necessary.