

**22ND NOVEMBER, 2021**

**REPORT NO. LEG2105**

## **UPDATE TO THE MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Report proposes minor adjustments to the Code of Conduct for Members, to reflect amendments to the published Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct related to Members Interests. A copy of the current Code is attached as Appendix 1 with the proposed updates shown as track changes.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In February and March 2021, a six-week public consultation was carried out on a draft new Rushmoor Code of Conduct for Councillors, to mirror the new national Model Code produced by the LGA. Following a recommendation by this Committee, the Council agreed to adopt the new Code at its meeting in April 2021, to take effect from the beginning of the current Municipal Year.
- 2.2 The Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee has responsibility to monitor the operation of the Members Code of Conduct.

### **3. SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS**

- 3.1 To ensure that Rushmoor's Code continues to mirror the National Code, the proposed adjustments are to Appendix B in respect of registering interests. They relate to the disclosure of non-registerable interests and clarify the following:
- 3.2 Paragraph 8 – where a matter arises at a meeting which affects a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in Table 2, Members must disclose that interest at the meeting. The current version references Table 1 in error.
- 3.3 Paragraph 9 - Should read 'Where a matter affects the financial interest or wellbeing'. The word 'the' replaces the current word 'your'. This clarifies that the test for whether a councillor can remain in the meeting after declaring a non-registerable interest, relates to all of the reasons in paragraph 8.

- 3.4 Paragraph 10 – Adjustment to tidy the arrangements for executive decisions made by individual Members to match existing provisions in the Constitution. Individual Cabinet Members should not use their delegated powers where they have an interest in the matter.
- 3.5 Table 2 - To add in missing text provided by the LGA that councillors must register any unpaid directorships as an Other Registrable Interest.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 These minor adjustments/clarifications are proposed to ensure that the Local Code of Conduct continues to mirror the National Code.
- 4.2 It is Recommended that:
- (i) the amendments to Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct be approved as set out in Appendix 1.
  - (ii) a copy of the updated Code of Conduct be circulated to all Members.

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