

## The Localism Bill and the future of the standards regime

### Consultation questions

In order to help facilitate discussions around what local arrangements, if any, Members may wish to establish in Leeds, the following questions are posed to Members:

1. Should Leeds City Council adopt a voluntary code of conduct?
  - a. If yes, should the Council:
    - revise the existing code of conduct<sup>1</sup>; or
    - adopt a completely new code of conduct to be drafted locally?
  - b. If the Council wishes to adopt a completely new code of conduct, what types of behaviour / situations should this cover?
2. If a code is to be introduced, should there be different processes for dealing with differing types of complaints, namely:
  - Member against Member;
  - officer against Member; and
  - member of the public against Member?
  - a. If yes, how should these processes differ?
3. Should the Council have a separate 'Standards Committee' (or another name) to carry out any of the above functions, or instead give the function to an existing committee exercising Council functions?
  - a. If an existing committee is preferred, which committee would be the most appropriate?
  - b. Alternatively, would the Council prefer to delegate some of these functions to an officer?
4. Would there be value in retaining the facility to have a co-opted independent member(s)<sup>2</sup> on any committee dealing with complaints of member misconduct and if so, might that co-opted members have a role in chairing consideration of complaints against Members under any of the options shown in Question 2 above?
5. Is there an appetite for having a regional Standards Committee?

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<sup>1</sup> At the least the Council would need to remove the reference to the General Principles which will be revoked, and the requirements regarding the registration and declaration of interests as these will be covered in separate Regulations.

<sup>2</sup> The position of Independent Member as it currently stands will be abolished, but the Council could choose to co-opt someone onto the committee to fulfil a similar function.