



**REPORT of
MONITORING OFFICER**

to
COUNCIL
13 FEBRUARY 2025

CONSULTATION RESPONSE - STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To agree a formal response on behalf of Maldon District Council (MDC) to the government consultation on member standards and conduct.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council endorses the draft consultation response at **APPENDIX A**.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This consultation seeks views on the introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England, and measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime in England to ensure consistency of approach amongst councils investigating serious breaches of their Member codes of conduct, including the introduction of the power of suspension. Anyone can access and respond to the consultation at <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-standards-and-conduct/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework/>
- 3.2 The consultation closes on 26 February 2025, and it is suggested that a formal response from MDC is given.
- 3.3 The Group Leaders have been engaged and broadly support changes to the standards regime.
- 3.4 A draft Consultation response has been put together on this basis, with a copy attached at **APPENDIX A**. Members are requested to endorse this response or provide any additional updates.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This paper seeks approval for the draft consultation response as set out.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

- 5.1 None.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Thought has been given in the draft response to the impact on our residents.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The response considers the impact on equalities.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Not applicable (n/a).
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – N/a.

Background Papers: None

Enquiries to: Emma Holmes, Lead Specialist: Legal and Monitoring Officer.