

**Recommendation of the Audit and Governance Committee
16 May 2019**

47. AG/2018/27 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

The report was taken as read and the Independent Persons there present invited to comment.

Clarification was given to the constitutional rules surrounding gifts and hospitality in response to Best Practice 5. Comment was given to the subjective nature of the value to different persons but the guidelines were acknowledged. Members were reminded that they could also declare gifts or hospitality under the guidance value in the interests of openness and transparency.

Positive mention was also given to Best Practice 3 and the involvement of the public in reviewing the code of conduct - beginning with community organisations. Members of the Committee agreed with the implementation of this best practice at Sutton.

The Chair also referred to Appendix B of the report - suggested amendments to the Code of Conduct - for further discussion. It was felt that any improvement to the public's confidence in the upholding of standards would be beneficial.

RESOLVED: that

1. The best practice recommendations of the Review into Local Government Ethical Standards were considered.
2. It be recommended to Strategy and Resources Committee and then Council to include definitions of bullying and harassment in the Code of Conduct as set out at Appendix B.
3. It be recommended to Strategy and Resources Committee and then Council to amend the Code of Conduct to include a provision that Members are required to comply with this procedure and participate in any formal standards investigation.

This page is intentionally left blank