

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Standard Committee	Date: 24 September 2026
Subject:	Code of conduct	
Report from	Director of Law & Governance	

Summary

A revised code of conduct was previously agreed by the members of this Committee and subsequently agreed by Council. The Committee recommended that the code is annually reviewed by this Committee.

This report presents the Code of Conduct and the accompanying guide for the Committee's 2026 annual review.

Recommendation(s)

1. Members review the code of conduct (Appendix 1) and guidance to Members on the code of conduct (Appendix 2).
2. Identify any amendments or clarifications required to either document
3. Instruct the Monitoring Officer to revise the code and guidance following the review.
4. Identify any areas of the Code that should be emphasised in the forthcoming Members training session.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

5. This recommendation aligns with Members decision to review the code annually.

Alternative options considered and rejected

6. Not to undertake the annual review. This option is not recommended as it would be inconsistent with the Committee's earlier decision.

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Background

1. Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires a relevant authority to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and co-opted members and to adopt a code dealing with the conduct expected of them when acting in that capacity. Any change to the adopted Code must be approved by Council.
2. Previously Standards Committee approved a revised Member code of conduct following a recommendation from a subgroup of the Committee. Consideration was given to the Council's existing Code of Conduct for Members following the publication of the Local Government Ethical Standards report produced by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) and the Local Government Association's (LGA) Model Code of Conduct (LGA's Model Code). At that time it was noted that the code had not been updated following the introduction of a revised model code. Members considered the guidance in detail and a new code was agreed.
3. At a subsequent meeting on the 3rd April 2024 Member agreed guidance to the code of conduct. The Guidance was brought forward by the Committee to assist and aid members understanding of the code and to give examples of what behaviour may result in a breach of the code of conduct.
4. On 18th September 2025 the Committee undertook an annual review and was invited to consider whether any amendments were required to the Code or the accompanying guide. Members are asked to review the code and consider whether any revisions are needed to the code or guidance.
5. Members may wish to consider whether the code is clear in relation to provisions covering respect, bullying, harassment, disrepute, confidentiality and whether any parts of the code or accompanying guidance require further practical examples
6. The Monitoring Officer has reviewed the approach taken by other Greater Manchester authorities and considers that Bury's Councillor Code of Conduct remains substantially aligned with the LGA Model Councillor Code and reflects current sector practice. No substantive amendments are considered necessary by the Monitoring Officer at this time.
7. The Monitoring Officer would welcome Members view on whether there are particular areas of the code that should be the focus for the forthcoming Members training.

Appendices:

Please list any appended documents.

1. Member code of conduct
2. Member guide to the code of conduct