

# Standards and Probity for Elected Members

## Purpose of the session:

- To revisit why conduct and standards matter in local government
- To explore your code of conduct and expected standards of behaviour
- To have an update on recent lessons learned across the country
- To review new proposals relating to conduct and standards
- To provide all councillors with a refresher on the key issues of conduct and standards

## Programme for a 2 hour workshop

- Welcome, introductions and the purpose of the session
- Why conduct/standards matter in local government and its importance for good governance, including
  - Conclusions from the Committee for Standards in Public Life – Ethical Standards in Local Government and
  - Government advice on addressing cultural and governance failings in local authorities (June 2020)
- What are the challenges to maintaining high standards and probity?
- Standards in public life – the principles
- Your code of conduct and required standards of behaviour
- Examples of acceptable and non-acceptable conduct
- Areas of risk including social media
- Consultation on a new LGA national model code and potential changes to standards in the future (*or details of a finalised new code if this has been adopted by the time of the session*)
- Mini scenarios – putting the theory into practice
- Sources of guidance and best practice

## Effective Member/Officer Relations

### Purpose of the session:

- To consider the central importance of the relationship between members and officers in an effective council
- To have an update on recent lessons learned from around the country
- To explore the respective roles of elected councillors and officers (including statutory officers)
- To understand the codes and protocols which apply to the relationship

### Programme for a 2 hour workshop

- Expected standards and conduct
- Why the relationship between member and officers is critical to the success of a council
- Lessons learned from other councils in recent reports including
  - Conclusions from the Committee for Standards in Public Life – Ethical Standards in Local Government and
  - Government advice on addressing cultural and governance failings in local authorities (June 2020)
- The respective roles of members and officers
- Expected standards and conduct
- The role of the statutory officers
- Effective working between members and officers to ensure a successful council
- Areas of risk including social media, elections and politics!
- Code and protocols which apply to the relationship
- Mini scenarios – putting the theory into practice