



Subject:	Consultation on a Revision of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct
Date:	17 th February, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a draft response to the consultation on a revision of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the submission of the draft response to the consultation as set out in Appendix 3.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> <p>The Department for Communities have issued a consultation document (Appendix 1) in relation to some limited revisions to the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors. Responses to the consultation are to be submitted by 28th February, 2017.</p> <p>Essentially, the proposed revisions fall into two categories:</p>

3.2	<p><u>Amendments to Part 3 – The Principles</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is proposed that the Principles of Conduct should be amended to better reflect the content and wording of the MLA code. 2. The current principle of “Public Duty” has been removed and has been added as an additional rule under Part 4 of the code. 3. Paragraph 3.2 of the code is amended to clarify that the Principles are now considered to be aspirational not enforceable on their own, in line with the MLA code.
3.3	<p><u>Amendments to Part 8 – Decision-Making</u></p> <p>Part 8 of the code has been amended to clarify that Rules 8.1(a) to (h) will apply to all Council decisions and that, in addition, Rules 8.1(i) to (l) will apply only to quasi-judicial decisions (for example planning and licensing) and to decisions on making appointments and the awarding of contracts.</p> <p>A copy of the updated revised code is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>The draft Council response welcomes these amendments to the code.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Consultation on a Revision of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Revised Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Draft Council response to the consultation.</p>