

Appendix B

Extract of reform measures arising from the Consultation outcome “Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England – consultation results and government response, November 2025

| | Proposed Measure | Summary of detail | Comment |
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| 1) | The introduction of a mandatory code of conduct, which will include a behavioural code, for all local authority types and tiers | <p>A mandatory code by using primary legislation to set out the code in regulations.</p> <p>Local authorities will be able to develop their own guidance and protocols which must align with the mandatory code but will not, in themselves, be part of the code or arrangements for enforcement.</p> <p>The behavioural code will require elected and co-opted members to co-operate with code of conduct investigations, and that submitting multiple vexatious complaints would be a code of conduct breach.</p> | The Council already had a Code of conduct which regulates standards and behaviour, but we will need to review the behavioural code requirements/legislation to see what changes maybe required. |
| 2) | A requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees, to include provisions on the constitution of standards committees to ensure objectivity, accountability and transparency | <p>All principal authorities to formally constitute a standards committee</p> <p>Code of conduct investigations to be completed, and investigation findings and decisions arising be published, including when the investigation findings are ‘no case to answer’ and the member is exonerated, and in the event a member stands down during an investigation.</p> | The Council’s Code already provides for this - including reporting of code of conduct allegations. |
| 3) | The requirement that all principal authorities offer individual support during | | The Council’s Code provides for support by engagement with an |

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| | any investigation into code of conduct allegations to both the complainant and the councillor subject to the allegation. | | independent person and where appropriate Councillors are referred to the confidential support via the EAP scheme. |
| 4) | The introduction at the authority level of a 'right for review' for both complainant and the subject elected member to have the case reassessed on grounds that will be set out in legislation. | <p>Legislation to provide both complainant and the respondent elected or co-opted member with a 'right for review' of standards committee investigation decisions.</p> <p>Recommended actions, to be taken forward, to support those affected through the complaint and investigation process in the best practice guidance.</p> <p>Government will investigate the case for creating an independent confidential helpline support offer for complainants.</p> | The Council's Code provides for a right of review of the Monitoring Officer decision although there is no right of appeal for the complainant or the member against a decision of the Monitoring Officer or the Audit & Standards Committee decision. This additional right will be a new provision. |
| 5) | Powers for authorities to suspend elected members for a maximum of 6 months for serious code of conduct breaches, with the option to withhold allowances during suspension for the most serious breaches and introduce premises and facilities bans either in addition or as standalone sanctions | <p>Provide authorities with a power to suspend elected members for serious code of conduct breaches for a maximum of 6 months, with the option to withhold allowances and institute premises and facilities bans where deemed appropriate.</p> <p>Confirm that a decision to sanction with a period of suspension, and/or institute premises and facilities bans can only be taken by a standards committee, following receipt and consideration of a formal investigation report, and following consideration of the views of the Independent Person.</p> <p>The legislation will enable standards committees to have the discretion to withhold elected member allowances and ban disruptive members from using council facilities or entering property, either as standalone sanctions or in addition to suspension.</p> | This would be a new provision within the Brent Code of Conduct giving the Standards Committee authority to impose a significant sanction. |

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| 6) | In response to the most serious allegations involving police investigation, or where sentencing is pending, the introduction of powers to suspend elected members on an interim basis for an initial period of 3 months which, if extended, will require regular review | <p>Legislation will be passed to confirm that the grounds when a standards committee can impose interim suspension; the allegations against the individual must be of a serious criminal nature and subject to police investigation/pending sentencing; and or Risk of Harm. Where the nature and seriousness of the allegations is such that if the elected member were to continue in their role during the investigation, it could result in a risk of harm to either the public, the complainant, the subject member, or the authority and its reputation.</p> <p>Legislation will set the maximum period of interim suspension at an initial 3 months and require ongoing review if the case remains unresolved after that initial period.</p> | This would be a new provision within the Brent Code of Conduct giving the Standards Committee authority to impose a significant sanction. |
| 7) | A new disqualification criterion for any elected member subject to the maximum period of suspension more than once within 5 years | Legislation will be introduced that disqualifies an elected or co-opted member if they receive a sanction of suspension for the maximum period of 6 months twice over a 5-year period. | This would be a new provision within the Brent Code of Conduct. |
| 8) | The creation of a new national appeals function, to consider appeals from elected members to decisions to suspend them and/or withhold allowances, and for complainants if they consider their complaint was mishandled. Any appeal submitted will only be permitted after complainant or elected member has invoked their 'right for review' of the local standards committee decision has been invoked and that process is completed. | Legislation to be implemented on arrangements for appeals to code of conduct decisions | This would be a new provision within the Brent Code of Conduct. |