

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

**On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

### **Audit, Standards & Governance Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

#### **Code of Conduct**

The Committee were asked to consider a report on a Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) into Local Government Ethical Standards.

The Monitoring Officer presented the report and informed the Committee that in January 2019 authorities received the Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) into Local Government Ethical Standards.

The Monitoring Officer highlighted that at the Council's Constitution Review Working Group meeting, Members requested the following:

- That the 'Gifts and Hospitality' threshold be reduced to £15 and that the Monitoring Officer requested that the rest of the county followed suit. The rationale being that a drink and plate of food could be accommodated within a £15 threshold;
- That 'Trolling' be included under 'Bullying and Harassment'. 'Trolling' related to a deliberate act of making random, unsolicited and/or controversial comments on various internet forums.

The Monitoring Officer concluded that a collective agreement had been reached, whereby the Worcestershire Councils had agreed to take the amendments, as detailed in the preamble above, to their respective authorities.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that subject to the amendments, as detailed in the preamble above, as requested by the Council's Constitution Review Working Group, that Council approve the changes to the Code of Conduct; to reflect the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) Best Practice Recommendations.