



ESSEX
ASSOCIATION OF
LOCAL COUNCILS

***Public Consultation &
Public Sector Surveys***

Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation & Public Sector Surveys

The Committee on Standards in Public Life have recently launched a consultation as part of its review into the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. The terms of reference of the review are to:

- Review the evidence as to how well ethical standards are upheld in public life in the United Kingdom.
- Review the evidence on the strength of the UK's arrangements for regulating and promoting ethical standards.
- Review the adequacy and continuing relevance of the Seven Principles of Public Life.
- Identify examples of best practice in the regulation of ethical standards.
- Identify examples of best practice in the promotion of cultures that celebrate and encourage high ethical standards.

The main consultation document is available [here](#). 

The NALC will be responding to the following consultation questions:

Question 1: Standards of Conduct in the UK

- a) How well do you think ethical standards - as enshrined by the Seven Principles of Public Life - are upheld in public life today?
- b) Do you believe that there have been any notable shifts in approaches or attitudes to ethical standards in public life in recent years?
- c) What do you see as the most significant threats to ethical standards in public life today?

Question 2: The Seven Principles of Public Life

- a) Do the Seven Principles of Public Life accurately describe the appropriate ethical responsibilities for those in public roles, including both political and non-political office-holders?
- b) Would you amend or replace any of the principles or their descriptors? If so, how?

Question 3: The UK's arrangements for regulating standards

- a) Are you confident that the UK's arrangements for regulating ethical standards are robust and effective?
- b) Are there any areas of public life where regulation on issues of ethical standards is not strong enough?

Question 4: Best practice in standards regulation

- a) What makes an effective standards regulator?
- b) Do the UK's standards regulators have the right powers and remit to act effectively?
- c) Should the independence of standards regulators be enhanced and protected, and if so, how?

Question 5: Creating ethical cultures

- a) How can the Seven Principles best be embedded within a public sector organisation's working culture?
- b) What are the most significant obstacles to embedding high ethical standards in a public sector organisation?

Responses

Please email your consultation responses to policycomms@nalc.gov.uk by **17:00** on **4 December 2020**.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your responses are appreciated.