

<b>Marches Enterprise Joint Committee</b>	
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>13 December 2017</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Draft Marches LEP Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Marches LEP Director</b>

## **Classification**

### **Open**

Notice has been served in accordance with Part 2, Section 5 (Procedures Prior to Private Meetings) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (Regulations) 2012.

## **Key decision**

This is not a key decision.

## **Purpose**

To seek the views of MEJC Members on the draft Marches LEP Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy.

## **Recommendation(s)**

### **THAT:**

- (a) The MEJC approves the LEP Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy and this document be attached as an Annex to the LEP Accountability and Assurance Framework and be added as a download on the LEP website.**

## **Summary**

1. It was agreed at the Marches LEP Board away day in March 2017, following a briefing workshop delivered by Charlie Helps from the Centre for Public Scrutiny, that the LEP should have a more robust Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy. Charlie Helps developed the attached document and the three Council legal teams have reviewed it to make sure it aligns with their respective Council policies on this issue.

## **Reasons for recommendations**

2. The LEP needs to have a robust and clear Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy that stakeholders and Members of the public can review on its website. This policy will help stakeholders and members of the public alike understand how the LEP Secretariat, its Board Members and LEP sub-group Members manage declarations of interest, conflicts of interest and how LEP Board Members and Members of the LEP sub-groups have agreed to conduct themselves when supporting the work of the LEP.

## **Alternative options**

3. None

## **Financial implications**

4. None

## **Legal implications**

5. The approval of the Accountability and Assurance framework document is a function of this committee. A code of conduct for the LEP is not required by law but is recommended best practice. All elected members are already bound to comply with their own council's respective codes when acting as a councillor.

## **Risks, opportunities and impacts**

6. If the LEP does not have a clear policy on code of conduct and conflicts it is open to be challenged and criticised by both the Government and the general public on not being open and transparent and following good governance practises.

## **Consultation**

7. The Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest policy has been developed in consultation with the legal teams in the three local authorities and a specialist advisor who works for the Centre of Public Scrutiny, Charlie Helps.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – The Marches LEP draft Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest policy