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To: The Chair and Members
of the Standards
Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 8 March 2023

Contact: Julia Jones

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 16th March, 2023

A meeting of the Standards Committee is to be held on the above date at 2.15 pm at Clinton Room, Committee Suite - County Hall to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for absence

2 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 November 2022, previously circulated.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

4 Standards Annual Report 2022/2023 (Pages 1 - 6)

In line with best practice the Committee has previously produced an Annual Report outlining the range of its activities and related developments during the year and identifying any issues for consideration or that might impact upon future arrangements. The draft Annual Report for 2022/23 submitted for endorsement and publication is attached. The publication, independently, of an Annual Report by this Committee complements and gives rigour to the Council's Annual Governance Statement which it is required to publish separately on an annual basis.

Recommendation: that the Annual Report for 2020/21 be approved and published.

STANDING ITEMS

5 Ethical Governance Framework: Monitoring (Pages 7 - 8)

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services ([LDS/23/5](#)) on co-opted members' attendance at meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings, monitoring compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework, attached.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6 Local Determination of Complaints

Director of Legal and Democratic Services to report on complaints or allegations of a breach of the Council's Members' Code of Conduct received since the last meeting, if any.

7 Committee on Standards in Public Life - Leading in Practice Review

The Committee on Standards in Public Life has undertaken a review of leadership across the public sector, as well as the private and third sectors.

The review focuses on case studies regarding how ethical standards are upheld within organisations and examples of best practice.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life published its Report in late January 2023 which can be viewed here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life-publishes-new-report-leading-in-practice>

The report identifies 20 questions for leaders to help them reflect on whether there is more they can do to support their people to think about the Principles of Public Life and integrate them into all aspects of how their organisation operates.

This is for the information of Members.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

8 Exclusion of Press and Public

Recommendation: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely, information relating to an individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual and in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9 Allegation of Breach of Members Code of Conduct (Pages 9 - 26)

Documentation enclosed and attached as follows:

Report of the Assistant Director of Legal Services

a Report for Standards Committee on 5 July 2022 re: Allegation of Breach of Members Code of Conduct (Pages 27 - 126)

This report pack is from the Standards Committee held on 5 July 2022. A full list of the documentation is listed in the pack.

b CPS correspondence (Pages 127 - 142)

CPS Correspondence

- E-mail from Monitoring Officer to Devon and Cornwall Police 23 December 2021
- E-mail from Devon and Cornwall Police to Monitoring Officer 8 June 2022
- E-mail from Monitoring Officer to CPS 15 June 2022
- E-mail acknowledgement from CPS to Monitoring Officer 20 June 2022
- E-mail from CPS to Monitoring Officer 13 July 2022
- E-mail from CPS to Monitoring Officer 5 September 2022 together with secondary e-mail trail

- c Subject Member - Subsequent Correspondence (Pages 143 - 176)
- Email from Subject Member to Members of the Assessment Sub Committee 30 June 2022
 - Email from Subject Member to Deputy Monitoring Officer, Chair, Chief Executive, Independent Person and Head of Democratic Services 1 November 2022
 - Email from Monitoring Officer to Subject Member 9 November 2022 together with secondary email trail
 - Email from Subject Member to Assistant Director of Legal Services 9 January 2023 providing comments on the draft report
 - Email from Subject Member to Assistant Director of Legal Services 31 January 2023 together with secondary email trail
- d Independent Person's Comments (Pages 177 - 188)
- Email from Independent Person to Monitoring Officer 8 June 2022 with secondary email trail
 - Email from Independent Person to Subject Member 30 November 2022

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

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Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council

It is to be noted that Members of the Council must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

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