

## ETHICAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK MONITORING

Report of the County Solicitor

**Recommendation:** that the report be noted.

1. The Standards Committee agreed previously that the independent, co-opted, members of the Committee should attend meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Committees on an ad-hoc basis to observe and monitor compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework, in line with the agreed protocol.
2. Members have, since the report to the previous meeting, attended the following meetings and their views/feedback are summarised below.

Meeting		Co-opted Member/Observer
Farms Estate	4 December 2017	Mrs Saltmarsh
Exeter Highways	16 January 2018	Mrs Mayes
Children's Scrutiny	23 January 2018	Mrs Saltmarsh
Health and Adult Care Scrutiny	25 January 2018	Sir Simon Day
Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee	7 February 2018	Mr Hipkin
Investment & Pension Fund	23 February 2018	Mr Hodgins

3. The following table summarises feedback received from Members on a number of general issues common to all meetings.

Observations:	1 = Very Poor and 5 = Very Good				
	1	2	3	4	5
Punctuality and Attendance of Members				✓	✓✓✓✓✓
Appearance and presentation				✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Speeches: clear, relevant, understandable, audio levels, use of microphones etc.,			✓✓	✓✓✓	✓
Use of appropriate language					✓✓✓✓✓✓
Members' Conduct & Behaviour				✓✓	✓✓✓✓
Clear identification and declaration of interests ( <i>where so declared</i> )				✓✓	✓✓✓

Effective Chairmanship/conduct of meeting				✓✓	✓✓✓✓
Adherence to Agenda				✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Listening and responding to advice (from Officers)				✓✓	✓✓✓✓

4. While there were a number of other issues raised by co-opted members in their observations, as set out below, there were no reports of any specific actions or behaviors that might be felt to have resulted in a potential breach of the Code or warranted further action
5. Specific observations by the independent co- opted members were:
- That it was helpful to receive a history and update on the Farms Estate;
  - visitors were welcomed and audience was attentive and enquiring;
  - with a matter on the Agenda under Part II, Committee Members were familiar with the matter and consideration was given to the best way forward, the proper procedure was followed;
  - positive meeting where the vast majority of what was reported and discussed was positive, constructive and agreed by all;
  - even though a small Committee and no public were present, it would be helpful microphones were used and that the Chair could remind everybody at the beginning to so do;
  - the supporting paperwork was very good and the Committee benefited from contributions from Officers which were of an equally high standard;
  - the meeting was rather long winded;
  - attendance was good;
  - use of microphones was much better than in many meetings;
  - some matters raised at the Budget meeting were transferred to the afternoon meeting;
  - not clear what the tasks were for the working lunch;
  - the paperwork was, as always, excellent;
  - surprised there was not more critical analysis of the actual budget figures;
  - the meeting was professionally conducted;
  - the Power Point slides used were useful and interesting, particularly when figures were discussed, and important points illustrated with graphs and pie charts;
  - not many questions or points of clarification, but these were dealt with competently;
  - some Members of the Committee did spend time on their smartphones;
  - Effective Chairing; and
  - Christian names had been used.
6. This Report has no specific equality, sustainability, legal or public health implications that have not already been assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements relating to the conduct of meetings, to safeguard the Council's position.

JAN SHADBOLT

[Electoral Divisions: All]

**Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers**

Contact for Enquiries: K Strahan  
Tel No: 01392 382264 Room: G31

<b><u>Background Paper</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>File Reference</u></b>
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Nil