

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK MONITORING

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

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 virtually and their views/feedback are summarised below.

Meeting	Date	Co-opted Member/Observer
Children's Scrutiny Committee	26 January	Ruth Saltmarsh
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	9 February	Ian Hipkin
Cabinet	10 February	Ray Hodgins
Council	16 February	Ruth Saltmarsh
Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee	22 February	Anne Mayes
Audit Committee	28 February	Ian Hipkin

3. The table below 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 (where so declared)					n/a ✓✓ n/a ✓✓
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.

- Concern about lack of paperwork available until arrival at the meeting
- Audio was clearer for those speaking and attending virtually than for those in the room and there were no microphones
- Might wish to consider where public sit in committee rooms so they can see screens
- Is enough being done to encourage the public to attend meetings?
- The meeting was interesting with plenty of appropriate discussion.
- Very well-run meeting
- Long meeting and members seemed to come and go all the way through – would a short break mid-way mean less toing and froing?
- When members stand to speak the mics are further away than if they sat down
- Lots of information, meeting was well organised, structured and with excellent documents, managed a significant amount of business effectively and efficiently
- Hybrid meeting – difficult to assess punctuality and appearance, meeting was late starting – furniture moving and sorting echo in the audio.
- Inappropriate language used on a couple of occasions, and meeting was full of acronyms
- The meeting was well chaired to accommodate extensive discussion.

5. 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.

MARIA PRICE

[Electoral Divisions: All]

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: J Jones
Tel No: 01392 380547 Room: G31

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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Nil