

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 at paragraphs 3 to 6 below.

Meeting		Co-opted Member/Observer
Public Rights of Way	19 June 2104	Mrs Saltmarsh
HATOC	22 July 2014	Mrs Mayes
Count Council	24 July 2104	Mr Bull
Cabinet	10 September 2104	Mrs Mayes
Development Management	17 September 2014	Mrs Saltmarsh
County Council	2 October 2014	Mrs Mayes

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

Observations:	<i>1 = Very Poor and 5 = Very Good</i>				
	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					✓✓✓✓

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 independent, co-opted members as part of 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.
6. Specific observations by the independent co- opted members were that:
- while the new sound system is a distinct improvement some individuals still fail to use it effective;
 - where order of business or agenda items change – whether by decision of the Committee or at the Chairman’s discretion - the reasons for so doing were clearly explained to all present;
 - name plates should be used - and need to be readable – for the benefit of the public; similarly the comfort of those attending needs be recognised (i.e.very hoy day and lack of ventilation);
 - Members participating in ‘separate conversations’ during debates are not only discourteous to speakers but may reflect poorly on the conduct of the meeting, particularly when meetings are webcast;.
 - well conducted meetings, firm Chairmanship where required;
 - Members and Officers need to recognise that procedural issues may not be fully understood by public present or watching and a clear exposition of what is happening is essential.;
 - well run meetings; efficiently chaired; efficient and clear presentations;
 - when using audio visual aids to present maps/diagram, use of an 'laser pen/pointer' to highlight areas on 'screen' is helpful and maps circulated to a Committee should be readily available to the public gallery.
7. 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

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