

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of
the Standards Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

(See below)

Your ref :
Our ref :

Date : 17 March 2017
Please ask for : Rob Hooper 01392 382300

Email: rob.hooper@devon.gov.uk

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 27th March, 2017

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

P NORREY
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 7 November 2016.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

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

STANDING ITEMS

4 Standards Committee Annual Report 2016/17 (Pages 1 - 2)

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 2016/17 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 2016/17 be approved and published.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

5 Ethical Governance Framework: Monitoring

Report of the County Solicitor (CS/17/9) 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 County Council Elections: Member Induction and Training

The County Council has always prided itself on delivering quality induction programmes and on-going training, for both new and returning members, as demonstrated by its having twice obtained Charter Plus Designation for Member Development. For 2017, an induction programme is being developed based on the previous experiences of Members and Officers and best practice across the County, while reflecting the changes to the organisational structure and operating principles of the Council.

The proposed induction programme is considered key in ensuring that both new and returning Members are provided with the skills and knowledge they need to quickly settle into their roles in an ever changing environment. The programme of events encompasses a range of activities and learning needs at both strategic and practical level, and will provide an overview of the Council's activities and how it fits within the Strategic Plan, give an insight into the various roles of a councillor and guidance and advice on the specific knowledge required to enable them to carry out their duties.

The training will also provide a wide range of advice on ethical governance and standards issues, including the Principles of Public Life, Codes of Conduct, Registers of Interests, Dispensations, Complaints, Procedural and Financial Rules and Equality Matters.

The training will, in the main, be delivered in house with minimal direct costs, with input from officers at all levels although joint training will be provided with or by partners where appropriate. A provisional Induction Programme is already available on the Council's 'Election' webpages to allow potential candidates to see for themselves the range of skills and knowledge required, at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/elections-and-voting/elections-2017/member-induction-2017/>, a copy of which has been circulated to Committee Members separately. As before co-opted members are free to attend any of the inductions sessions and any comments they may have on the programme would be appreciated.

7 Local Determination of Complaints

County Solicitor to report on complaints or allegations of a breach of the Council's Members' Code of Conduct received since the last meeting, if any.

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

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain confidential information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s).

Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore urged to return them to the Committee Secretary at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal

Membership**County Councillors**

Councillors A Moulding (Chairman), C Chugg, P Colthorpe, A Connett, G Gribble, R Hill and J Mathews

Co-opted Member

S Day, R Hodgins, A Mayes and R Saltmarsh

Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that they 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.

Access to Information

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Rob Hooper 01392 382300.

Agenda and minutes of the Committee are published on the Council's Website and can also be accessed via the Modern.Gov app, available from the usual stores..

Webcasting, Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings

The proceedings of this meeting may be recorded for broadcasting live on the internet via the 'Democracy Centre' on the County Council's website. The whole of the meeting may be broadcast apart from any confidential items which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. For more information go to: <http://www.devoncc.public-i.tv/core/>

In addition, anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall. For information on Wi-Fi availability at other locations, please contact the Officer identified above.

Public Participation

Any member of the public resident in the administrative area of the County of Devon may ask the Chairman a question upon a matter which, in every case, relates to the functions of the Council. Questions must be sent to the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Secretariat (committee@devon.gov.uk) by 12 noon on the fourth working day before the date of the meeting. For further information please contact Rob Hooper 01392 382300.

Emergencies

In the event of the fire alarm sounding leave the building immediately by the nearest available exit, following the fire exit signs. If doors fail to unlock press the Green break glass next to the door. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts, do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

Mobile Phones

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Committee Room or Council Chamber

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Induction loop system available