

Phil Norrey  
Chief Executive

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To: The Chair and Members of the  
Standards Committee

County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4QD

(See below)

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Your ref :  
Our ref :

Date : 3 November 2017  
Please ask for : Karen Strahan 01392 382264

Email: karen.strahan@devon.gov.uk

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 13th November, 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 3 July and 29 August 2017, previously circulated.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

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

4 Membership

The Committee to welcome Mr I Hipkin.

### **MATTERS FOR DETERMINATION**

5 Consultation on the Disqualification Criteria for Councillors and Mayors (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the County Solicitor (CSO/17/29) on the Government's Consultation on the Disqualification Criteria for Councillors and Mayors and a proposed response to that consultation.

## **STANDING ITEMS**

6 Customer Feedback Monitoring Report - Quarter 2 2017/2018 (Pages 5 - 24)

Report of the Head of Digital Transformation & Business Support (BSS/17/14) on feedback, compliments, representations and complaints received and handled by the County Council for Quarter 2 2017/2018, attached.

7 Ethical Governance Framework: Monitoring (Pages 25 - 28)

Report of the County Solicitor (CSO/17/22) 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**

8 LGO Annual Letter 2017 (Pages 29 - 40)

Report of the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support (BSS/17/15) on complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman, referred to the Authority during 2016/17, attached.

9 Voting - Standards Committee Co-Opted Members

The County Solicitor will report.

10 Setting the Standard - Summary of Horizon Scanning Event

The Committee on Standards in Public Life held a Horizon Scanning Seminar on 10 July to look at possible ethical standards in the future.

Members are asked to note the comments in relation to Local Government which included;

- the suggestion there was a need for a fresh look at rules of codes of conduct for Councillors and a strengthening of the ethics system and declaration of interests, given Local Government was often the first level at which the public interact with politics;
- the issue was not just around particular standards issues such as conflict of interests, but went wider to the issue of governance of local government where it seemed there was a rather mixed system, with little/no effective scrutiny, and defects around conduct; and
- the issue of the development around town centres was raised and the huge sums of money involved.

11 Local Authorities and Standards Regimes - Representations from South West Local Authorities (Pages 41 - 44)

The Committee to note that recent representations were made by Standards Committees across the South West, particularly in Somerset, regarding the limits on sanctions that could apply against Councillors and also the lack of middle ground between criminal sanctions for transgressions around disclosable pecuniary interests and relatively 'tame' sanctions for other transgressions.

A number of suggestions were made to the Minister in relation to suspension of Councillors, sanctions for behaviour in a Councillors personal life and the role of the Independent Person.

A copy of the letter sent and the Ministers response is attached.

12 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.

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

Nil

*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 R Radford (Chair), M Asvachin, R Bloxham, P Colthorpe, B Greenslade, G Gribble and J Mathews

**Co-opted Member**

Sir Simon Day, I Hipkin, 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 Karen Strahan 01392 382264.

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..

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Induction loop system available

## **NOTES FOR VISITORS**

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**SatNav** – Postcode EX2 4QD

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### **Access to County Hall and Public Transport Links**

Bus Services K, J, T and S operate from the High Street to County Hall (Topsham Road). To return to the High Street use Services K, J, T and R. Local Services to and from Dawlish, Teignmouth, Newton Abbot, Exmouth, Plymouth and Torbay all stop in Barrack Road which is a 5 minute walk from County Hall. Park and Ride Services operate from Sowton, Marsh Barton and Honiton Road with bus services direct to the High Street.

The nearest mainline railway stations are Exeter Central (5 minutes from the High Street) and St David's and St Thomas's both of which have regular bus services to the High Street. Bus Service H (which runs from St David's Station to the High Street) continues and stops in Wonford Road (at the top of Matford Lane shown on the map) a 2/3 minute walk from County Hall, en route to the RD&E Hospital (approximately a 10 minutes walk from County Hall, through Gras Lawn on Barrack Road).

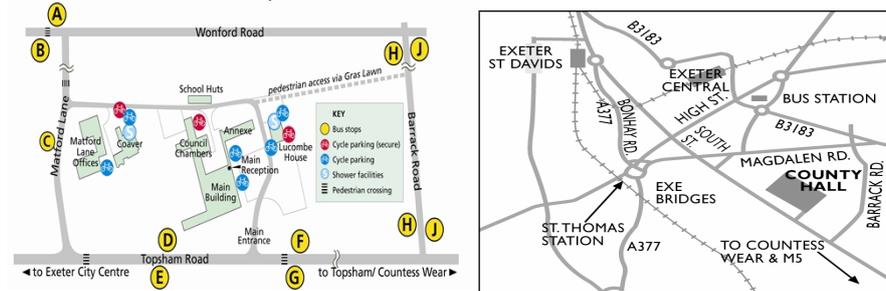
### **Car Sharing**

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### **Car Parking and Security**

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**NB**   Denotes bus stops

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### **First Aid**

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