

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

To: The Chair and Members of the
Standards Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

(See below)

Your ref :
Our ref :

Date : 2 November 2018
Please ask for : Karen Strahan 01392 382264

Email: karen.strahan@devon.gov.uk

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 12th November, 2018

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 2 July 2018, previously circulated.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

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

STANDING ITEMS

4 Customer Feedback Monitoring Report (Pages 1 - 10)

Report of the Head of Digital Transformation & Business Support on feedback, compliments, representations, complaints received and handled by the County Council and letters from MP's for the 2nd Quarter of 2018 (July to September), attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

5 Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2017/18 (Pages 11 - 28)

Report of the Ombudsman Link Officer and the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support on the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman Complaints Annual Review Letter for 2017-18, attached.

The letter received from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman is also attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

6 Ethical Governance Framework: Monitoring (Pages 29 - 32)

Report of the County Solicitor ([CS/18/35](#)) on co-opted members' attendance at meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings, monitoring compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework, attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

7 Devon Audit Partnership - Audit of Ethics and Ethical Governance (Pages 33 - 44)

Report of the Devon Audit Partnership on the Audit of Ethics and Ethical Governance, conducted in January 2018 but formally reporting in March 2018, attached.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

8 Response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life Consultation - Local Government Ethical Standards (Pages 45 - 54)

Members may recall the meeting of the Standards Committee (Minute *27 refers) on 12 March 2018, where the Monitoring Officer advised the Committee of the [Consultation](#) from the Committee on Standards in Public Life's in relation to its review of local government ethical standards. The Consultation closed the 18th May 2018, therefore the Committee agreed that Members would submit their views on the Consultation questions in order for a response to be prepared, a version shared with Members and agreement of the final version being delegated to the County Solicitor in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

The final response is attached for information.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

9 Consultation on Updating the Disqualification Criteria for Councillors and Mayors - Summary of consultation responses and Government's response (Pages 55 - 76)

Members may recall the meeting of the Standards Committee (13 November 2017 – [minute *14 refers](#)), where the Committee considered the Report of the County Solicitor (CSO/17/29) on the Government's Consultation on the Disqualification Criteria for Councillors and Mayors. The Report outlined the current disqualification criteria, under relevant legislation which disqualified someone from being the Mayor or an Assembly Member under certain criteria and then the Government's proposals to update the criteria disqualifying individuals from standing for, or holding office as, a local authority member, directly-elected mayor or member of the London Assembly, if they were subject to:

- the notification requirements set out in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (commonly referred to as 'being on the sex offenders register');
- a Sexual Risk Order;
- a civil injunction granted under section 1 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014; or
- a Criminal Behaviour Order made under section 22 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Committee RESOLVED that the Consultation response outlined in the County Solicitors Report (CSO/17/29) be endorsed subject to the additional comments regarding civil injunctions and the views expressed at the meeting relating to juveniles.

The Government has recently published its response to the Consultation, which is attached for the information of Members. This includes a summary of Consultation responses and Government's response.

Governments intends to include the above categories within the disqualification criteria and will be waiting for an appropriate opportunity to include this within primary legislation, although it should be noted that any legislative changes would not apply retrospectively.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

10 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.


Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

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 C Chugg (Chair), M Asvachin, R Bloxham, P Colthorpe, A Connett, J Mathews and P Twiss 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.
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 Chair. 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 Chair 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.
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
If you need a copy of this Agenda and/or a Report in another format (e.g. large print, audio tape, Braille or other languages), please contact the Information Centre on 01392 380101 or email to: centre@devon.gov.uk or write to the Democratic and Scrutiny Secretariat at County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD.
 Induction loop system available

NOTES FOR VISITORS

All visitors to County Hall, including visitors to the Committee Suite and the Coaver Club conference and meeting rooms are requested to report to Main Reception on arrival. If visitors have any specific requirements or needs they should contact County Hall reception on 01392 382504 beforehand. Further information about how to get here can be found at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/help/visiting-county-hall/>. Please note that visitor car parking on campus is limited and space cannot be guaranteed. Where possible, we encourage visitors to travel to County Hall by other means.

SatNav – Postcode EX2 4QD

Walking and Cycling Facilities

County Hall is a pleasant twenty minute walk from Exeter City Centre. Exeter is also one of six National Cycle demonstration towns and has an excellent network of dedicated cycle routes – a map can be found at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/travel/cycle/>. Cycle stands are outside County Hall Main Reception and Lucombe House

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).

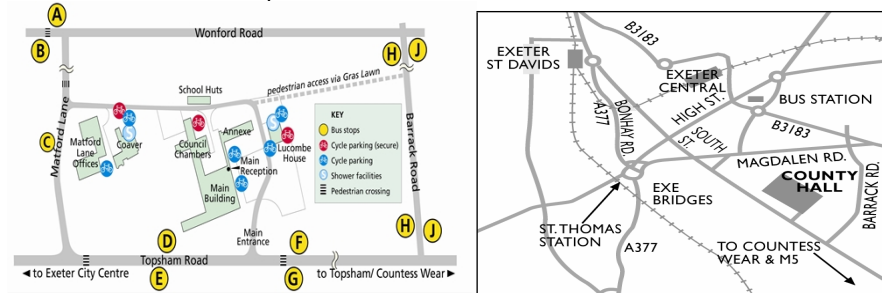
Car Sharing

Carsharing allows people to benefit from the convenience of the car, whilst alleviating the associated problems of congestion and pollution. For more information see: <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/devon>.

Car Parking and Security

There is a pay and display car park, exclusively for the use of visitors, entered via Topsham Road. Current charges are: Up to 30 minutes – free; 1 hour - £1.10; 2 hours - £2.20; 4 hours - £4.40; 8 hours - £7. Please note that County Hall reception staff are not able to provide change for the parking meters.

As indicated above, parking cannot be guaranteed and visitors should allow themselves enough time to find alternative parking if necessary. Public car parking can be found at the Cathedral Quay or Magdalen Road Car Parks (approx. 20 minutes walk). There are two disabled parking bays within the visitor car park. Additional disabled parking bays are available in the staff car park. These can be accessed via the intercom at the entrance barrier to the staff car park.



NB   Denotes bus stops

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First Aid

Contact Main Reception (extension 2504) for a trained first aider.