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To: The Chair and Members  
of the Standards  
Committee

County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4QD

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Date: 6 November 2020

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### **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Monday, 16th November, 2020

A meeting of the Standards Committee is to be held on the above date at 2.15 pm at Virtual meeting. To view and watch the meeting, the link will appear below in due course. to consider the following matters.

Phil 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 17 March 2020, 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 Ethical Governance Framework: Monitoring (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the County Solicitor ([CS/20/12](#)) 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**

### 5 Annual Review of the Code of Conduct

That the Committee are asked to note that whilst it would normally conduct an annual review of the Code of Conduct, with a new Code arriving in a matter of weeks, the Committee will be asked to review and adopt a new Code at the next meeting.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

### 6 New Model Code of Conduct Consultation (Pages 5 - 14)

Report of the County Solicitor (CSO/20/19) on the Model Code of Conduct Consultation and the Council's response.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

### 7 Committee on Standards in Public Life - Landscape Review of Public Standards

The Committee is asked to note that the Committee on Standards in Public Life has launched Standards Matter 2, which is a landscape review of the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct.

It also proposes to look at best practice and identify any themes and gaps in the way the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#) are promoted and maintained.

As part of this, the Committee is running a public consultation and a public sector survey as part of this review. This appears to be about individual experiences, so we are not proposing to send a DCC response, but instead alert Members to this and ask them to respond individually should they wish. The Consultation ends on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

You can view the [terms of reference](#) for the review and [reply to the consultation](#).

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

8      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**

9      Exclusion of Press and Public

**Recommendation:** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely, information relating to an individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual and in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10     Allegation of Breach of Members' Code of Conduct (Pages 15 - 36)

Covering and Investigation Report of the Deputy County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, attached.

Also attached is a copy of the original complaint and relevant appendices.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

*Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.*

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Members of the public may also use social media to report on proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council**

It is to be noted that Members of the Council 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.

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