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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: 14 March 2022

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**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 22nd March, 2022

A Teams meeting of the Standards Committee is to be held on the above date at 2.15 pm at Teams Meeting 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 4 November 2021, 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.

## **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

4 **Streamlining of Councillor Complaints Process** (Pages 1 - 18)

Report of the County Solicitor (Interim) (CSO/22/7) proposing a streamlining of the current Councillor Complaints Guidance, attached.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

5 **New Devon County Council Code of Conduct** (Pages 19 - 32)

Report of the County Solicitor (Interim) (CSO/22/3) outlining a proposed new Code of Conduct for adoption by the Council, attached.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

6 **Standards Committee Annual Report for 2021/22** (Pages 33 - 38)

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 2021/22 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.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

## **STANDING ITEMS**

7 **Ethical Governance Framework: Monitoring** (Pages 39 - 40)

Report of the County Solicitor (Interim) (CSO/22/8) 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**

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.

**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 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.*

## **MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS**

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Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or background papers relating to an item on the agenda should contact the Clerk of the Meeting. To find this, [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and find the Committee. Under contact information (at the bottom of the page) the Clerk's name and contact details will be present. All [agenda, reports and minutes of any Committee are published on the Website](#)

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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. Filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible without additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard to the wishes of others present who may not wish to be filmed. Anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance.

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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