

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14 March 2016

Present:-

Councillors Channon (Chairman), Colthorpe, Connett, Gribble and Hill

Alderman Sir Simon Day, Mrs Saltmarsh and Mr Sullivan

Apologies:-

Councillors Chugg and Moulding and Mr Hodgins and Mrs Mayes,

*31 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2015 be signed as a correct record.

*32 **Standards Committee Annual Report 2015/16**

The Committee considered the draft of the Standards Committee Annual Report for 2015/16 prepared in line with best practice commenting on its work and developments during the year and on any issues for consideration or development in the future. The draft Annual Report had this year been presented in a more concise, accessible format, for consideration.

The Committee acknowledged that the publication, independently, of an Annual Report by the Committee would complement and give rigour to the Council's Annual Governance Statement which it was required to publish on an annual basis.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Channon, **SECONDED** by Councillor Colthorpe, and

RESOLVED that, subject to amendments discussed, the Annual Report for 2015/16 be approved and published on the Council's website at:
<https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillor/committee/standards/>

*33 **Ethical Governance Framework - Independent Monitoring**

The Committee received the report of the County Solicitor ([CS/16/8](#)) summarising feedback from Co-opted Members of this Committee on their attendance at meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committees since the previous meeting monitoring compliance by Members and Officers with the Council's ethical governance framework.

The Committee were pleased to note that there had been no areas of significant concern or any indication of actions or behaviours that might be felt to have resulted in a potential breach of the Code, acknowledging also that steps would continue to be taken to address practical and procedural matters in light of Member's comments arising from both this and the previous monitoring reports in future training sessions.

*34 **Local Determination of Complaints: Case Handling Information**

The County Solicitor reported that, since the last meeting, one complaint concerning an alleged breach of the Members Code of Conduct had been received relating to meeting allegedly organised and attended by a Councillor and failing to treat others with courtesy and respect during a consultation exercise.

Following an initial assessment of the complaint and consultation with an Independent Person appointed by the Council it had been agreed that no further action should be taken on the complaint on the basis that either there had been no material breach of the code to warrant further investigation or that the allegations would not be a breach of the Code of Conduct and, accordingly, could not therefore be investigated.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 2.15pm and finished at 2.31pm.

The Minutes of this Committee are published on the County Council's Website at:-
<http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcc/committee/minutes.html>