

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK MONITORING

Report of the County Solicitor

Recommendation: that the report be noted.

1. The Standards Committee agreed previously that the independent, co-opted, members of the Committee should attend meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Committees on an ad-hoc basis to observe and monitor compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework, in line with the agreed protocol.
2. Members have, since the report to the previous meeting, attended the following meetings and their views/feedback are summarised below.

Meeting		Co-opted Member/Observer
Public Rights of Way	17 March 2016	Mrs Saltmarsh
People's Scrutiny	21 March 2016	Mr Sullivan
Cabinet	11 May 2016	Mrs Mayes

3. The following table summarises feedback received from Members on a number of general issues common to all meetings

Observations:	<i>1 = Very Poor and 5 = Very Good</i>				
	1	2	3	4	5
Punctuality and Attendance of Members				✓	✓✓
Appearance and presentation				✓	✓✓
Speeches: clear, relevant, understandable, audio levels, use of microphones etc.,			✓		✓✓
Use of appropriate language				✓	✓✓
Members' Conduct & Behaviour			✓	✓	✓
Clear identification and declaration of interests (<i>where so declared</i>)				✓	✓
Effective Chairmanship/conduct of meeting			✓		✓✓
Adherence to Agenda					✓✓

Listening and responding to advice (from Officers)			✓		✓✓
--	--	--	---	--	----

4. While there were a number of other issues raised by co-opted members in their observations, as set out below, there were no reports of any specific actions or behaviors that might be felt to have resulted in a potential breach of the Code or warranted further action
5. Specific observations by the independent co- opted members were:
- a 'model' meeting;
 - during a lengthy debate Members need to remain focused on the issue at hand;
 - Members should avoid participating in 'separate conversations' during debates which are not only discourteous to speakers but may reflect poorly on the conduct of the meeting, particularly when meetings are webcast;
 - there had been firm, clear Chairmanship;
 - a positive meeting with a clear shared collective will to act in the best interests of that service area;
 - excellent use of microphones .
6. This Report has no specific equality, sustainability, legal or public health implications that have not already been assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements relating to the conduct of meetings, to safeguard the Council's position.

JAN SHADBOLT

[Electoral Divisions: All]

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: R Hooper

Tel No: 01392 382300 Room: G31

<u>Background Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
--------------------------------	--------------------	------------------------------

Nil