

## 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	Date	Co-opted Member/Observer
South Hams HATOC	5 April 2019	Anne Mayes
Devon Authorities Strategic Waste	19 June 2019	Ray Hodgins
Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee	27 June 2019	Ian Hipkin

3. The table overleaf 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.,			✓ (Mic's)		✓✓
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 .

- Meeting took place in a small room which meant that everyone sat at the table and discussion flowed easily, no need for microphones;
- A very well organized meeting;
- Chair of Committee was knowledgeable about the topics discussed and the meeting was well chaired; and
- Sound system was again problematic. It is difficult to hear what specialists are saying and Councillors had difficulty switching on microphones. The Chair expressed hope that the sound system was to be improved.

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**

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**Background Paper                      Date                      File Reference**

Nil