

## 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
Public Rights of Way	4 July 2019	Mr Hipkin
East Devon Highways & Traffic Orders	18 July 2019	Mrs Saltmarsh
Investment and Pension Fund	13 September 2019	Mr Hodgins
Children's Scrutiny	16 September 2019	Mrs Mayes
Development Management	18 September 2019	Sir Simon Day
Procedures	17 September 2019	Mrs Saltmarsh
Health and Wellbeing Board	10 October 2019	Sir Simon Day

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

Observations:	1 = Very Poor and 5 = Very Good				
	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

- Slides of maps and photographs were useful'
- Number of legal clarifications were made, which assisted those in attendance;
- Additional interesting comments about definitions of motorised vehicles: this will certainly become an issue in the future;
- Sound system was again problematic;
- meeting not held in the usual room and minor problems encountered with the technology, which were sorted;
- presenter responded positively to the request not to use acronyms;
- no microphones in use, or available for use, because the Council Chamber was being used (meeting was held outside of County Hall) and the lack of microphones was raised by a member of the committee;
- no name cards;
- most Members wanted to express opinions on one item on the agenda and it appeared everybody was given the chance to say what they wanted. A further recommendation was agreed at the meeting as a result of the discussion and reflected the knowledge and awareness of the local Councillors;

- a short meeting with not a lot of business but what there was, was dealt with efficiently and effectively;
- Well run meeting, good reports and supporting documentation;
- Presenters sometimes spoke without a mic which, although audible in the room may not have been alright on recording and main speaker not easy to hear;
- Chair not consistent in addressing speakers, for example using first names and / or Councillor;
- Intermittent mics, kept switching on and off;
- only three members in attendance at this meeting (6 apologies including the Chair);
- Decision made that meeting was quorate and those present dealt with the business on the Agenda;
- strange to me that there was such poor attendance, I don't recall any other meeting where attendance was so low;
- One Member did not speak clearly so was difficult to follow; and,
- Clocks in the Committee room was not at the correct time.

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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<b><u>Background Paper</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>File Reference</u></b>
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Nil