

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 |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee | 11 November 2019 | Mr Hodgins |
| Cabinet | 13 November 2019 | Mrs Mayes |
| Devon Education Forum | 20 November 2019 | Mr Hodgins |
| Development Management | 27 November 2019 | Mrs Saltmarsh |
| Health and Wellbeing Board | 16 January 2020 | Mr Hipkin |
| SACRE | 13 February 2020 | Mrs Saltmarsh |
| Cabinet | 14 February 2020 | Mrs Mayes |
| Council | 20 February 2020 | Sir Simon Day |
| Farms Estate | 24 February 2020 | Mr Hipkin |

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

- Some Councillor's talking between themselves, making it difficult to hear who was speaking;
- Nameplates useless for those at the back. Would be helpful if officials are invited to speak using their name and role rather than just their first name, which were frequently used;
- Hard to hear what was said by the Councillors who sit with their backs to us (quite a few people at the back on this occasion);
- Good to see water and glasses on the back table;
- Forenames used extensively, so difficult to know who was speaking;
- Meeting well attended. There was a delay in the start of the meeting for technical reasons so meeting not webcast although staff used roving microphones very efficiently. The delay was explained by the Chair to Members and the public at the outset. There were representatives from the local community for one agenda item who wished to object and they each used their allocated time correctly. The Chair chaired the meeting very effectively, with many Members expressing their opinions and paying attention to the matters the Objectors had raised. The Chair paid attention to some of the key points the Objectors raised, as well as the suggestions and recommendations made by Members. In

all agenda items Members raised a number of queries and concerns and made suggestions and recommendations. The meeting appeared to be constructive and forward thinking with some positive suggestions being made and the Chair was good at keeping Members to the point and being focussed on the tasks of the meeting;

- The Chair and other members of the committee handled sensitive issues with great compassion and presentations provided a great deal of quantitative information, with useful interpretation;
- Meeting ran very smoothly;
- Some Members and Officers were scruffily dressed;
- Meeting was well chaired. There was good, critical discussion which questioned assumptions and decisions;
- Well attended (SACRE) and well chaired;
- Valuable contributions by Diocesan Education Officer and Adviser;
- Meeting very positive, constructive and for those who wanted help and advice with particular issues, was very helpful. Many positive contributions and a commitment to doing things well, challenge, try, promote information and get people more involved.
- There were approximately 40 people but a feeling of involvement and commitment from those who attended..... without doubt one of the most friendly meetings I have attended.

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