

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 virtually and their views/feedback are summarised below. With the current process of limiting numbers in the Committee rooms, the attendance rota for co-opted Members will be revisited in due course.

Meeting	Date	Co-opted Member/Observer
Devon Education Forum	16/6/2021	Mrs Saltmarsh

3. The table below 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.
- Meeting was well attended (virtual) and the finance update was very detailed, enabling Members to be kept well informed (also noting the position was critical)
 - The Head of Service gave clear information and detailed explanations to the Forum.
 - There was a challenge regarding the availability / timeliness of paperwork for the meeting, which was quickly countered.
 - numerous queries/challenges raised to which the Officer listened and responded and indicated she was willing to investigate further on some issues.
 - It was a difficult meeting to Chair and feels that meetings held virtually are more difficult than face to face and particularly more challenging to Chair.
5. 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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<u>Background Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
Nil		

Nil