

## 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
Health and Wellbeing Board	13 January 2022	Mrs Mayes
Audit Committee	24 February 2022	Mr Hipkin
Public Rights of Way	10 March 2022	Mrs Mayes

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 (where so declared)					✓
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.

- The usual hiccups with the technology but on the whole it worked well;
- Some of the papers shared online would have been difficult to read if you were a member of the public without a hard backup.
- The meeting was very well chaired and agenda items were led by various people, after which there were insightful questions and discussion.
- Given these meetings are broadcast it would be helpful if all participants could introduce themselves – name and post. list of participants was confusing (e.g a Councillor was visible but didn't seem to appear in the participant list).
- The audio broke up several times.
- There was an issue whether an email received concerning one agenda item the night before and not read by the majority of Members could be discussed at the meeting.

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.

ANDREW YENDOLE

[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		