

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
Investment and Pension Fund	25 February 2022	Mr Hodgins
Children’s Scrutiny	15 March	Mr Hodgins
Development Management	30 March	Mr Hipkin
Farms	16 May	Mrs Saltmarsh
Cabinet	8 June	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 (<i>where so declared</i>)					✓✓ N/A N/A
Effective Chairmanship/conduct of meeting					✓✓✓✓
Adherence to Agenda					✓✓✓✓
Listening and responding to advice (from Officers)					✓✓✓ N/A

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.
- Very clear reports and pertinent questioning from those presenting (Investment and Pension);
 - Interesting meeting with lots of good comments and well chaired (Children's Scrutiny);
 - Good discussion of issues and well chaired (Development Management);
 - Due to Broadband quality – it was not possible to make a fair comment of the meeting, however, it was possible that the use of microphones was intermittent contributing to poorer sound quality, despite reminders to use them (Farms Estate Committee)
 - Difficult to ascertain whether everyone was there. There was one apology for absence (Cabinet)
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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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Nil		