

## Mid Devon District Council

### Standards Committee

Wednesday, 13 October 2021 at 6.00 pm  
Phoenix Chamber, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting  
Wednesday, 9 February 2022 at 6.00 pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** - this meeting will take place at Phoenix House and members of the Public and Press are encouraged to attend via Zoom wherever possible. The attached Protocol for Hybrid Meetings explains how this will work. Please do not attend Phoenix House without contacting the committee clerk in advance, in order that numbers of people can be appropriately managed in physical meeting rooms.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92710127294?pwd=Q29lcjJCcjduQ5YzJPeFFCanM4QT09>

Meeting ID: 927 1012 7294

Passcode: 285353

One tap mobile

08002605801,,92710127294#,,,,\*285353# United Kingdom Toll-free

08003582817,,92710127294#,,,,\*285353# United Kingdom Toll-free

Dial by your location

0 800 260 5801 United Kingdom Toll-free

0 800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free

0 800 031 5717 United Kingdom Toll-free

Meeting ID: 927 1012 7294

Passcode: 285353

## Membership

Cllr Mrs F J Colthorpe

Cllr R M Deed

Cllr C J Eginton

Cllr D F Pugsley

Cllr C R Slade

Cllr Mrs M E Squires

Cllr L D Taylor

Cllr Mrs N Woollatt

Cllr A Wyer

# AGENDA

*Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place*

- 1 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**  
To receive any apologies for absence and notices of appointment of Substitute Members (if any).

- 2 **PROTOCOL FOR HYBRID MEETINGS** (Pages 5 - 12)  
To note the protocol for hybrid meetings.

- 3 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

- 4 **MINUTES** (Pages 13 - 18)  
Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 7 July 2021.

- 5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**  
Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.

- 6 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
To receive any announcements the Chairman of the Committee may wish to make.

- 7 **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** (Pages 19 - 32)  
To consider the notes of the Standards Working Group following the meeting held on 15 September 2021 and draft amendments to the existing Code of Conduct.

Please also see link to the Local Government Association Model Code and guidance notes: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/guidance-local-government-association-model-councillor-code-conduct>

- 8 **OUTCOMES OF THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW**  
To consider issues raised within the Governance Review in particular the membership of the Audit Committee and the outcome of any discussions from the Programming Panel meeting.

The Audit Committee at its meeting on 21 September 2021 made the following recommendation:

*That it is recommended to the Standards Committee that it consider increasing the Audit Committee size from a membership of 7 to a*

*membership of 9* (in line with the membership of the Policy Development Groups).

The Programming Panel met on 20 September 2021 and made no recommendations to the committee.

9 **STANDARDS - UPDATE TRAINING**

To consider whether to facilitate refresher standards training particularly with reference to the LGA guidance.

10 **COMPLAINTS**

To receive an update from the Monitoring Officer with regard to any on-going complaints being dealt with. During the discussion it may be necessary to consider passing the following resolution to protect the Members of District, Town and Parish Council's being discussed.

To exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 12 12.02(d) (a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Committee will need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT – EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RECOMMENDED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to an individual

11 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Members to consider items for the next or future meetings of the committee.

**Stephen Walford**  
Chief Executive  
Tuesday, 5 October 2021

## Covid-19 and meetings

From 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. However, the Council is also required to follow government guidance about safety during the pandemic. The Council will enable all people to continue to participate in meetings via Zoom.

You are strongly encouraged to participate via Zoom to keep everyone safe - there is limited capacity in meeting rooms if safety requirements are to be met. There are restrictions and conditions which apply to those in the building and the use of the building. You must not attend a meeting at Phoenix House without complying with the requirements in the new protocol for meetings. You must follow any directions you are given.

Please read the new meeting protocol which is available here: [Hybrid Protocol - September 2021.pdf \(middevon.gov.uk\)](#)

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to [Committee@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:Committee@middevon.gov.uk) by no later than 4pm on the day before the meeting. This will ensure that your name is on the list to speak and will help us ensure that you are not missed – as you can imagine, it is easier to see and manage public speaking when everyone is physically present in the same room. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Sally Gabriel on:

E-Mail: [sgabriel@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:sgabriel@middevon.gov.uk)

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.

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