

Mid Devon District Council

Standards

Wednesday, 14 January 2015 at 6.00 pm
Exe Room, Phoenix House

Those attending are advised that this meeting will be recorded

Membership

Cllr R J Chesterton
Cllr Mrs F J Colthorpe
Cllr R M Deed
Cllr R Evans
Cllr Mrs L J Holloway
Cllr C R Slade
Cllr Mrs M E Squires
Cllr P F Williams
Cllr Mrs N Woollatt

A G E N D A

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 **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.
- 3 **Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting (attached).
- 4 **Chairman's Announcements**
To receive any announcements the Chairman of the Committee may wish to make.
- 5 **Constitution Working Group (Pages 9 - 70)**
The Committee to receive an update from the Monitoring Officer outlining the ongoing work of the Constitution Working Group.

To include:

Officer Code of Conduct
Articles

6 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Councillor D F Pugsley raised the following matter at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 8 December 2014.

Exclusion of Press and Public.

Following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED** to the Standards Committee that Procedure Rule 21 have the following text added as a second paragraph referring to 12.02.d.

Whenever there is a possibility that an item may need to be discussed in part two the agenda should include a brief explanation as to why this might be the case, in plain English, and make reference to the Constitution, Article 12, which mentions a presumption in favour of openness and transparency.

7 **State of the District Debate**

The following motion had been referred to the Standards Committee for consideration and report:

This Council resolves to amend the Constitution by adding the following sentence at the end of Procedure Rule 16.1:

"If in any year the Leader fails to call a debate, it may be called by notice in writing to the Chief Executive signed by any 5 members of the Council."

In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.6(a) Councillor D F Pugsley requested that the Motion be altered to read:

"that the Constitution be amended by adding the following sentence at the end of Procedure Rule 16.1:

If the Leader declines or fails to call a debate within nine months in any municipal year, it may be called by notice in writing to the Chief Executive signed by any 10 Members of the Council.

The Standards Committee at its meeting on 12 November 2014 considered this proposal and recommended that it be supported.

Following discussion at Council, it was AGREED that the Motion be referred back to the Standards Committee as Members requested further clarification with regard to who requests the subject of the debate.

8 **Standards Sub Committee**

To receive an update from the Standards Sub Committee following their meeting on 9th January 2015.

9 **Identification of items for the next meeting**

Kevin Finan

Chief Executive

Wednesday, 7 January 2015

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Member Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussion. Lift access to the Council Chamber on the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions.

An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, or

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

Tel: 01884 234209

Fax:

E-Mail: jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk