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24 September 2025

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Governance Committee** will be held on **Thursday, 2nd October, 2025** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX** at **2.00 pm**

PHIL SHEARS
Managing Director

Membership:

Councillors Bullivant (Chair), Henderson (Vice-Chair), Nutley, Clarence, Palethorpe and Nuttall

Please Note: Filming is permitted during Committee meeting with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being filmed.

A G E N D A

Part I

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

3. Declarations of Interest (if any)

Matters for Review and Determination

4. Governance Committee Terms of Reference (Pages 9 - 10)

To note the Governance Committee's Terms of Reference, as approved by Full Council on 29th July 2025.

5. **Governance Committee meetings**

To agree the frequency of meetings for the Governance Committee to be quarterly and for the Democratic Services Team Leader to affix the dates of future meetings in consultation with the Chair of the Governance Committee.

6. **Arrangements under the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedures** (Pages 11 - 36)

To approve the Arrangements under the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure to accompany the Code of Conduct complaints process.

7. **Publication of Governance Committee Information and Webcasting** (Pages 37 - 44)

To consider the publication of information relating to the Governance Committee, Code of Conduct Complaints and webcasting of meetings.

8. **Code of Conduct Complaints Update**

Verbal update on Councillor Code of Conduct complaints received.

9. **Application for Dispensations - Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation** (Pages 45 - 48)

To consider granting dispensations to Members of the Council to enable them to take part in matters relating to Devolution and/or Local Government Reorganisation.

10. **Member Development Strategy** (Pages 49 - 56)

To approve the Member Development Strategy 2025.

11. **Member Training Log** (Pages 57 - 58)

To review the Member Training and Briefing log from May to August 2025.

12. **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Letter 2025** (Pages 59 - 62)

Consideration of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Letter to the Council and the Council's performance in 2024/25.

13. **Constitution Review Working Group Update** (Pages 63 - 66)

To update Members on the work of the Constitution Review Working Group. The notes of the last meeting are attached to the agenda pack.

14. **Determination of Code of Conduct Complaints (FS- CASE- 66476116)** (Pages 67 - 68)

To consider the Independent Investigator's Report. The Investigator has identified no breach of the Code of Conduct and recommends no further action.

15. **Determination of Code of Conduct Complaints (FS-CASE-689504213)** (Pages 69 - 70)

To consider the Independent Investigator's Report. The Investigator has identified no breach of the Code of Conduct and recommends no further action.

16. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

RECOMMENDED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the particular item(s) on the grounds that it involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Part II: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public excluded

17. **Determination of Code of Conduct Complaints (FS-CASE-68664892, 689497898 and 690478228)** (Pages 71 - 100)

To consider the Independent Investigator's Report. The Investigator has identified a breach of the Code of Conduct and the Committee is to determine any further actions.

18. **Determination of Code of Conduct Complaints (FS-Case-636881192)** (Pages 101 - 116)

To consider the Independent Investigator's Report. The Investigator has identified a breach of the Code of Conduct and the Committee is to determine any further actions.

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